

'Iolani Kuoha
POB 491
Hoolehua, HI 96729
kuohaiolani1@gmail.com
(808)298-9686

Letter of Support for Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of continued funding for Maui Economic Opportunity and the essential services it provides to individuals and families throughout Maui County, including Moloka'i.

For many residents of Moloka'i, transportation remains one of the greatest barriers to opportunity. Accessing school, work, medical appointments, groceries, social services, and community programs can be difficult without reliable transportation options. MEO helps bridge that gap by providing services that directly improve the quality of life and strengthen community stability.

Beyond transportation, MEO has long been recognized for its programs that support economic self-sufficiency, employment pathways, housing stability, and community well-being. These services are especially important for rural and underserved communities where resources may be limited.

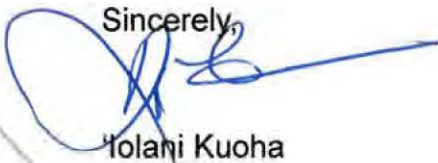
When families have access to transportation and support services, students attend school more consistently, workers maintain employment, and kūpuna and families can access essential care and resources.

Continued support for MEO is an investment in equity, access, and the well-being of Maui County residents.

I respectfully ask for your continued support of Maui Economic Opportunity and the vital work it does for our communities.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



'Iolani Kuoha

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

'Iolani Kuoha
POB 491
Hoolehua, HI 96729
kuohaiolani1@gmail.com
(808)298-9686

RE: Letter of Support for Molokai Arts Center

Aloha Chair and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of continued funding for the Molokai Arts Center and the important role it plays in serving the people of Moloka'i.

The Molokai Arts Center is far more than an arts organization. It is a place where community, culture, creativity, and connection come together. Through classes, workshops, exhibits, youth programs, and community events, the center provides meaningful opportunities for residents of all ages to learn, create, and build relationships.

For many families on Moloka'i, access to arts education and creative spaces is limited. The Molokai Arts Center helps fill that gap by offering safe, welcoming, and enriching experiences that strengthen well-being and community pride. It also helps preserve local culture by uplifting island voices, stories, traditions, and artistic expression.

The center contributes to economic development by supporting local artists, attracting visitors, organizing events, and fostering opportunities in the creative economy. Most importantly, it invests in people by giving youth and families a positive place to grow and thrive.

I respectfully ask that you continue to support funding for the Molokai Arts Center and recognize its lasting impact on our island community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



'Iolani Kuoha

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

'Iolani Kuoha
POB 491
Hoolehua, HI 96729
kuohaiolani1@gmail.com
(808)298-9686

Letter of Support for Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of continued funding for the Maui Economic Development Board and its impactful programs that benefit students, educators, families, and communities across Maui County, including Moloka'i.

MEDB has helped expand access to STEM education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and future-ready learning opportunities for our youth. In rural communities such as Moloka'i, these opportunities are especially valuable because students often face barriers related to distance, limited resources, and fewer specialized programs.

Through robotics, coding, career exploration, teacher training, and student engagement programs, MEDB helps prepare our students for success in a rapidly changing world. These experiences build confidence, problem-solving skills, collaboration, and the belief that local students can compete and lead in any field they choose.

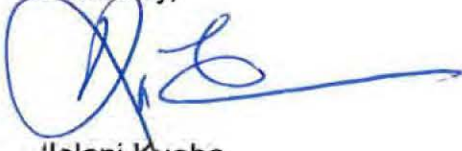
MEDB also strengthens our schools by supporting educators with high-quality professional learning and partnerships that connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities.

Continued investment in MEDB is an investment in innovation, education, and the future workforce of Maui County.

I respectfully ask for your continued support of this important organization and its programs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



'Iolani Kuoha

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 13, 2026

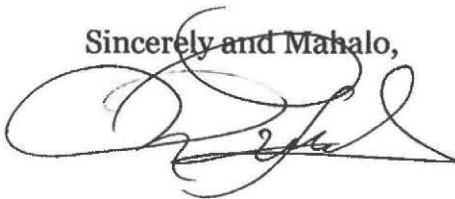
Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
[200 South High Street](#)
Kalana O Maui Bldg 9th Fl.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Aloha Mr. Mayor Bissen:

My name is Makaila Purdy and I am writing in support of the Molokai Rural Community Association (MRCA) Kupuna Program. This program has many services that benefit our native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian Kūpuna. Due to my current health conditions and medical procedures that I have undergone, the services that MRCA provides, has been monumental for me to maintain my health as best as I can. The following are services I have utilized and continue to use, e.g. haircuts, yard cleaning, foot care and lomilomi.

Please continue to fund our Molokai Rural Community Association Kupuna Program as it is important for our kupuna to sustain our health and independent living.

Sincerely and Mahalo,



Makaila Purdy
P.O. Box
Hoolehu, HI 96729
(808) 658 - 0879

RECEIVED AT ^{Molokai} BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Catherine Aki
P.O. Box 788
Kaunakakai, 96748
4/13/26

Aloha ~~Mayor Bissen~~, *County Council Thank you for being here tonight,*

I am writing to thank you for the continued support of the MEO rental assistance program. This has been very important to me as a landlord as well as my tenant. He fell behind on his rent when he lost his job and before he found a new one. It allowed him to remain my tenant while recovering his finances as a single parent. As a senior citizen it helped supplement my fixed income. Again, thank you for supporting MEO on Molokai and this specific program.

As a concerned citizen and community member, I believe it is important to ensure that our county's budget reflects the needs and priorities of all residents. But more specifically the Kupuna. I was disturbed when the current year's budget cut back on the Kupuna program under Molokai Rural Health Community Association. Apparently this program is suppose to move towards being self-sustaining. So things like yard service has been cut. Imagine this, at 74 years old, I have been pushing a lawnmower because of all this rain. My 85 year old neighbor recently was weed whacking his yard. Fixed income seniors can't afford to pay for yard service, or at least I can't. For years I could depend on the kupuna program for that. Another important service that was cut is the diabetic foot care. I have used Podiatrist Dr. Pit mostly to keep my ingrown toenails under control. That may seem trivial, but it allowed me to avoid the possibility of surgery. Another service that has been invaluable is the house keeping service. Although I can sorta keep up, the extra help for "spring cleaning" type jobs has been important to my quality of life. These are some of the services that I personally benefitted from.

professionals and caring staff
Lomi lomi has been a great benefit from the professional caring staff as well. Old age hurts
However, recently it seem that the county has decided to cut this program completely out of the 2027-2028 budget. I am more that disappointed, I am pissed. Throwing the old folks under the bus when the world economic situation is in shambles is just mean. Although I am grateful for the many years the program has been supported, I just don't understand why the kupuna would be the ones to experience this budget cut.

On another note, at the last budget hearing I attended I complained about the electric car charging station at Cook Pool being broken. After several months, it has been fix and my car is currently plugged in. Thank you for providing this service at a time when gas on Molokai is \$7. It makes a huge difference as I still drive to work. The county's support for alternative energy is to be commended in light of the Middle East oil crisis.

Sincerely,

Catherine Aki

Catherine Aki

RECEIVED AT molokai MEETING ON 4/13/26
BFED-

Kyle Franks
UH CTAHR Extension Agent;
FARMER

Moloka'i Agriculture & Food Security Priorities

CRB

- Responses guided by community not grant guidelines
- Incentivise for brush/breeding site cleanup or mitigation with sound/safe approach
- *Funding permanent Ag. inspector on-island*

Idle Agricultural Lands

- Support clearing, fencing, and initial site development

Build a Local Farmer Workforce Pipeline

Focus: Train Moloka'i residents to grow food at scale

- Fund cohort-based, hands-on programs
- Paid apprenticeships tied to real production sites
- Integrate ag pathways into Moloka'i schools

Soil Health & Regenerative Practices

Focus: Build fertility using locally available inputs

- Support cover cropping
- Composting (Sustainable Coastlines model) and green waste reuse
- Promote agroforestry and perennial systems
- *Incentivize large land owners for erosion control mitigation.*

Small-Scale Infrastructure (Right-Sized for Moloka'i)

Focus: Infrastructure that matches the island scale

- Shared-use wash/pack facilities
- Small cold storage hubs

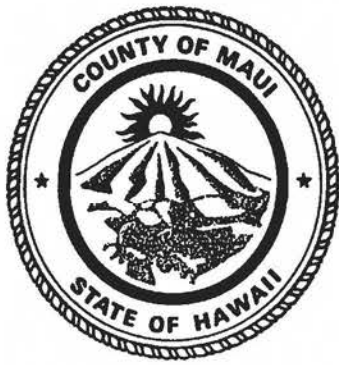
Strengthen Local Markets First

Focus: Keep food on island before exporting

- Support local markets, EBT access, and farm-to-school programs
- County purchasing of local food (schools, kupuna programs)

Support Agroforestry & Perennial Systems

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Marialenna Davis

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: madavis@alulike.org City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO, Inc. Molokai

Request/Issue: Aloha! Please continue to support Molokai MEO and all of its many services. I'd especially like to highlight their Rental Assistance Program,

which I was a recent recipient of. I don't usually qualify for services because my income is just over the eligibility limit, so I wasn't very hopeful when I applied.

However, Aunty Nani, the Community Services Case Manager who oversees the rental assistance program on Molokai, treated me with kindness and without judgment.

She made the entire application process seamless, and I truly appreciate her for that. At the time, I was living in a container on Hawaiian Homestead lands as a single

mother raising a tween. I needed to provide my daughter with a safe, clean, and supportive environment for her growth

and my peace of mind. I would not have been able to do that without MEO's support. I am incredibly grateful.

Please continue to fund all the wonderful and needed programs of MEO.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____ RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 13, 2026

To: Members of the Maui Budget Committee

Re: Public Comment in Support of Continued Funding for MEO's Rental Assistance Program

My name is Tami Michaelson and I am a resident of Molokai. I am writing to provide public comment for the upcoming budget hearing and to express my strong support for continued—and, where possible, increased—funding for MEO's rental assistance program. MEO has delivered meaningful, measurable results for families and individuals who are working hard to secure safe, stable housing. In 2015, I participated in the program, which helped me get into a home as a single mother with two children. Now I can offer this opportunity to others seeking a head start to obtain housing on the island of Molokai.

MEO's housing program has helped community members move from housing insecurity to stability by providing critical services such as housing navigation, application assistance, landlord coordination, learning to budget, and connections to supportive services. For many households, these supports make the difference between continued displacement and a sustainable path forward.

Beyond the numbers, MEO's work reflects dignity and respect for the people it serves. Staff consistently meet clients where they are, communicate clearly, and help households understand their options. This kind of steady, practical support reduces stress on emergency systems and helps stabilize neighborhoods by keeping families housed. Nani Duvauchelle has been instrumental in supporting our local community to find safe, appropriate housing.

As you consider the budget, I urge you to prioritize investments that keep people safely housed and reduce the long-term costs of crisis response. Continued funding for MEO's housing program will help maintain services that are already working and expand capacity to meet growing need—especially as rents and living costs remain high.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments and for your commitment to the wellbeing of our community. Please support full funding for MEO's housing program in the coming budget.

Sincerely,

Tamara Michaelson

Native Hawaiian: Molokai Resident

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Shauna Pule-Kaahanui

Email Address: kaishalei2016@gmail.com **Phone:** 8086580796

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 1362 **City/Zip:** Kaunakakai, HI 96748

I Represent: **Myself**
 Organization _____

Request/Issue: MEO budget has continuously supported Molokai families in a number of ways that no one can express how helpful they are. It's programs are essential for many residents particularly those facing economic hardship. Maintaining and if possible increasing funding ensures that individuals and families can continue to access these vital resources and programs. The support from the budget directly impacts the well-being, stability, and self-sufficiency of our community members.
I strong urge the committee/ board members/ and decision makers to continue prioritizing MEO's budget and to consider the positive impact it has had on countless residents in Maui County.

I, Shauna Pule-Kaahanui, Thank you for your time and consideration.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Erica Anderson

Email Address: [Handwritten]

Phone: [Handwritten]

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 298 Kualapuu

City/Zip: HI 96757

I Represent: Myself

Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue:

EVER SINCE MY SUV WAS STOLEN OVER
 a month ago I travel with the MEO bus
 to go to Kaunakakai from M'loa to
 go shopping.

the bus is always on time and bus
 drivers help me with my groceries

I would be absolutely be lost.

with out the friendly on time efficient

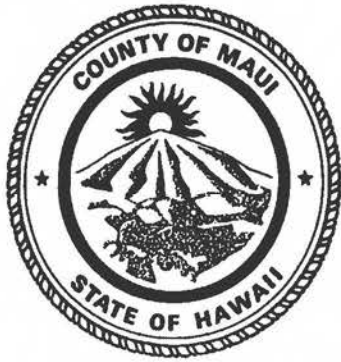
servicers of the MEO bus -

can't thank you enough -

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai MEETING ON 4/13/26
BFED



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Jennifer Edens/Liwai Morgan

Email Address: noes2008houseoffice@gmail Phone: 808.283.9265

Mailing Address: 1960 Kamehameha V City/Zip: 96748

I Represent: Myself
 Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue: This svc is necessary for me
to do anything as I'm disabled & I'm
60 & no longer drive. If I could ask
for anything it would be a way to
be notified ~~for~~ if cancellations. ~~also~~
or if there is a recording we could
call for information updates.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: DAVID CONAN

Email Address: _____

Phone: 604-857-6203

Mailing Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself

Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue: The Service is excellent

I use it for everything

Its no expense

Keep up the good work

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Dominique Mauwa

Email Address: dominiquemauiwa2@gmail.com Phone: 808-658-1553

Mailing Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

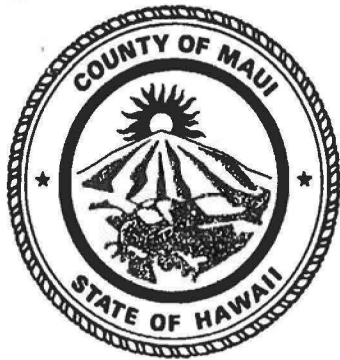
I Represent: Myself
 Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue: Yes I need the bus to get to work so I can help my parents pay bills and so I can save up money before I go to colleges. The bus is a huge help to me and my mom for when we need to go shopping.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/21



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

WAYNE SCOTT MEYER

Email Address:

WAYNESCOPTMEYER@GMAIL.COM

Phone:

808 213-8519

Mailing Address:

P.O. BOX 1

City/Zip:

96757

I Represent:

Myself

Organization

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue:

I JUST WANTED TO SAY HOW MUCH THE M.E.O. BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES HAS BEEN A BLESSING IN MY LIFE - I USED TO HAVE A CAR-TRUCK AND VAN, DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES I USE THE BUS TO GET TO WORK AT KUALAPU'U RANCH I LIVE IN KALAE, ALSO AS A CANCER PATIENT I HAVE MONTHLY BLOOD WORK, DOCTORS APP- CAT SCANS, THE MED-STAFF DRIVERS, THIS SERVICE IS A GOD SEND I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT IT PROVIDES FOR ME. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Funding Request (if known): \$

N.A.

Responsible County Department:

N.A.

RECEIVED AT Molokai BEP MEETING ON 4/13/21



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STATE USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: LAMBERT K. HAN

Email Address: ladahan34@gmail.com Phone: 808 658 5381

Mailing Address: PO Box 34 City/Zip: HOOLEHUA 96729

I Represent: Myself

Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc - Molokai

Request/Issue: Continued funding for MEO
transportation is essential for
Kūpuna like myself to attend
appointments in town - doctor, dentist,
physical therapy, food (shopping).
MEO transportation has been a
life line for my physical and
mental well being after losing
my sight and not being able to drive
myself. It is a vital need for
people of Molokai.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Rusty Puaoi-Marcellino

Email Address: Pdy?side 967 2919@gmail.com Phone: 18086688954/

Mailing Address: Po box 140 City/Zip: Hoodlehuwa 96729

I Represent: Myself

Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc - Molokai

Request/Issue: I use the bus transportation for me to
assure I can get to work as well as all my
shopping & doctor appointments on time.
Also to get back home safely. Please
continue the funding for this service.
Much Mahalo Rusty.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/2



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.
[Empty box]

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Seana-Paula K. Kamahele

Email Address: _____

Phone: 808-213-8815

Mailing Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself

Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue: I got no complaints, da Ride
helps when need to go town
~~SAFE~~ BLESS YOU,

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Robert Ferreira

Email Address:

ferreirarobert@gmail.com

Phone:

(808) 213-5662

Mailing Address:

2618 KAMV Hwy UNIT 3B

City/Zip:

KAWAHAHI 9676

I Represent:

Myself

Organization

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue:

Take me to STOPPING AND

Good Services

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO. _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Bobby

Email Address: _____

Phone: 808-213-4526

Mailing Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself
 Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue: helps me get home from

School

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO. _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Kaizyn Chong

Email Address: _____ Phone: (808) 213-5426

Mailing Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself
 Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc - Molokai

Request/Issue: Meo helps me get home from high school to Kaunakakai.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Kaleia Delgado

Email Address:

kaleia2@hawaii.edu

Phone:

(808) 631-2910

Mailing Address:

City/Zip:

96757

I Represent:

Myself

Organization

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc - Molokai

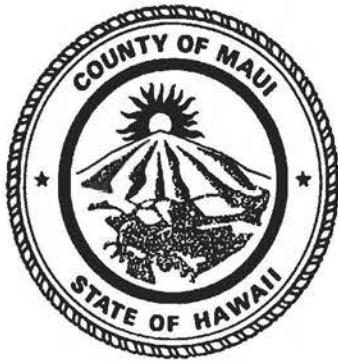
Request/Issue:

Meo helps me get a free
ride home.

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department:

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/2



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO. _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Iki Kanealii

Email Address: Iki.kanealii@gmail.com

Phone: 808-281-3739

Mailing Address: _____

City/Zip: Kaunakakai 96748

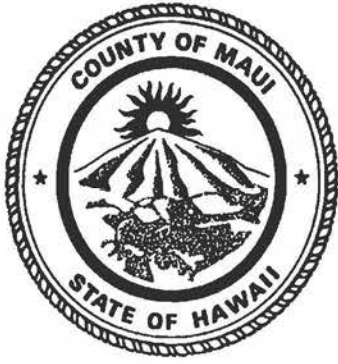
I Represent: Myself
 Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc - Molokai

Request/Issue: None!! And love free rides :)

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai BPOD MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: KuheauKandi'i Lopez

Email Address: GoobaiHAYN@gmail.com **Phone:** (808) 658-0896

Mailing Address: _____ **City/Zip:** 96748

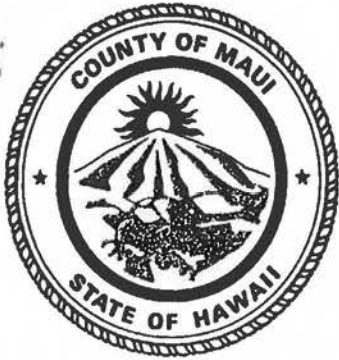
I Represent: **Myself**
 Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc - Molokai

Request/Issue: Meo helps me get home from Molokai High school after practice at 5:00 pm Monday to Friday.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/27



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Jerick G. Bush

Email Address:

Phone:

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 301

City/Zip:

Molokai, 96770

I Represent:

Myself

Organization

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue:

Cannot Attend.

*"That's the Best Thing that ever happened
 on Molokai. (MEO, BUS Services)"*
*THANK YOU, Great job 2 all
 BUS DRIVER'S. Mahalo D*

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT *Molokai*
BFED MEETING ON *4/13/20*



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Debra Akya

Email Address: alohadeniz7@gmail.com

Phone: 808-213-8642

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12465

City/Zip: KAWAHAHA, HI

I Represent: Myself

Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - Molokai

Request/Issue: MEO TRANSPORTATION HAS BEEN A BUSINESS
IN MY & MY SON'S LIFE WE DEPEND ON THE SERVICES
FOR WORK, SCHOOL & SO ONWARDS. THIS SERVICE IS
VERY ESSENTIAL FOR THE COMMUNITY FOR WORK
ECONOMY AND THE RISING COST OF LIVING.
MANY PEOPLE DEPEND ON ITS SERVICES FOR WORK
AND TO DO BUSINESS ESPECIALLY FOR THE ELDERLY
~~PLEASE CONTACT~~

Funding Request (if known): \$ AS MUCH AS WANTED

Responsible County Department: MOLOKAI, MAUI

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFEED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: KEHAULANI BIZIONES

Email Address: Kahiwawozad@gmail.com Phone: 8084005335

Mailing Address: 8033 Kam V Hwy City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself
 Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc - Molokai

Request/Issue: Molokai Meo Transportation is very helpful threw my daily travels it helps opt me and many others to Appts, stores, and work. Our community rely's on Meo because they have been such a great help for our kupuna's Keke's and Parents. When no ones there you can rely on Meo to get you where you need to. It makes so much of a difference that if it went away Molokai Residents would truly suffer a big loss, Just not enuf room to say too much more a-mail me.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

RECEIVED AT Molokai Bfep MEETING ON 4/13/26



NEED KOKUA

Chisa Kalani <chisaleekalani@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 7, 2026 at 8:24 PM

Aloha Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Chisa-Lee Kalani, an advanced medical nail technician on Molokai. On behalf of Nail Bar Molokai, I would like to share how important the Kūpuna program is to the Kupuna we serve, and to humbly ask that you continue funding it for the 2027–2028 budget year.

When our Kūpuna come in for foot care, many are in pain. Some have trouble walking. Others have not been able to properly care for their feet due to mobility issues, health conditions, or simply not having access to this type of service. We often hear how hard it is for them to trim their nails safely, especially for those dealing with diabetes, circulation problems, or limited flexibility. After their visit, the difference is immediate. They walk out more comfortable, moving easier, and often with a big sense of relief. Some tell us they can finally walk without pain. Others share that they feel safer on their feet again. It may seem like a small thing, but proper foot care makes a real difference in their ability to stay independent. We also see how much this program means beyond the physical care. Our Kūpuna come in ready to talk story, laugh, and connect. Many of them live alone or don't get out often, and this time becomes something they truly look forward to. They leave smiling, feeling cared for, and knowing someone is looking out for them. That kind of support matters. For many of the elders we serve, this isn't a luxury; its essential care they would not otherwise receive.

Without this program, small issues can quickly turn into bigger health problems. Preventative foot care helps keep them mobile, reduces risk of infection, and helps them remain independent longer. We know budget decisions are not easy, but we hope you will consider how directly this program impacts Molokai's Kūpuna. We have seen firsthand how much it helps, and how much it is appreciated. We respectfully ask that you continue funding so we can keep serving our Kūpuna and helping them stay healthy, comfortable, and connected. Mahalo for your time and for your continued support of our community.

Mahalo,

Chisa-Lee Kalani
Nail Bar Molokai
nailbarmolokai@gmail.com
808-658-9926

[Quoted text hidden]

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFPD MEETING ON 4/13/26

Subject: Support for Continued Funding – Molokai Rural Health Community Association

Dear Mayor Bissen

Aloha,

I write this letter from the heart, with deep gratitude and hope for the continued support of the Molokai Rural Health Community Association.

Here on Molokai we live a simple life. With a small population and limited resources, we depend on programs like this not as luxuries, but as necessities. For our kupuna, this association is more than a service-it is car, connection, and dignity.

Our elders are the backbone of this island. They are our storytellers, our teachers, and our foundation. Through this program, they receive services that many of us might take for granted-relief from pain through massage, essential foot care through podiatry, and opportunities to stay active and engaged through aerobics, tai chi, and even creative outlets like drama classes.

These are not just activities. They are lifelines.

As I grow older and become a kupuna, I look forward to being able to utilize and benefit from these services as well, just as many in our community do today.

Without continued funding, we risk losing something truly irreplaceable. We risk leaving our kupuna without the support they deserve after a lifetime of giving to this community.

I humbly ask that you continue to support and fund the Molokai Rural Health Community Association for another year. This investment goes far beyond dollars-it strengthens the health, spirit, and heart of Molokai.

Mahalo for your time, your compassion, and your leadership.

With respect and appreciation

Eloise L. Duvauchelle

RECEIVED AT Molokai BPED MEETING ON 4/13/26

The Honorable Mayor Richard Bissen, County of Maui
200 S. High St.
Wainaku, HI 96720

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I'm writing to express my heartfelt support for the Kupuna program on Molokai, which provides vital services to our kupuna in our community. As a Kupuna and frequent user of this program, I can attest to its impact on my life and the lives of many others, living on Molokai.

The program has made a significant impact on many lives, offering essential services like transportation, meals, and social activities that help combat isolation, haircuts, yard service, podiatry visits, and diabetic foot care.

As a Kupuna living on Molokai, I'm particularly concerned about the loss of these services. We already face challenges accessing resources and services, and many of us would have to travel off-island for medical care and other needs if not for this program. The Kupuna program helps bridge that gap.

I'm also concerned about the loss of yard service. Many of us rely on this service to maintain our homes and yards, but struggle to do it ourselves due to physical limitations. I personally depend on this service, as my arms can't handle a weedeater, and not everyone owns a lawnmower. It's hard to find help, and this service allows us to stay independent without burdening our busy families.

If restored, this program can continue to uplift our kupuna and the community. I'm urging you to consider funding for the Kupuna program in the upcoming budget.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Nadine Pauole

molokai
RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Letter to Mayor Mike Victorino

1 message

Marcia Mckinzie <marciamckinzie@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 5:52 AM

Aloha Kuulei,

Thank you and your staff for all you do for the Kapuna on Molokai! Here is my letter of support for the program.

To Mayor Mike Victorino

I am writing a letter of support for the Kapuna Care program on Molokai. This program has been invaluable to my physical and mental health. I have been receiving services since the beginning of the program. I am on a fixed income and would not be able to afford the services if not for the program.

I have received excellent foot care from Dr. Pitt and the Nail Salon. Lomilomi is so helpful for my arthritis. I have participated in Flex and Fit and Water Aerobics, also amazing for my arthritis and balance. I have also attended card making and Lau'ala classes. I have attended the La'au Lapa'au and cancer support groups.

Kuulei and her staff are an amazing team, always there to help. I hope you can keep the Kapuna Care program on the budget. I and the other Kapuna need this program so much because most of us are on a fixed income.

Mahalo,
Marcia McKinzie
Sent from my iPad

molokai
RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 8, 2026

Subject: Urgent Support for Continued Funding: Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Program

Dear Mayor,

My name is Estrelita Luczon, and I am writing to you today as a 71-year-old resident of Moloka'i to express my deep gratitude and urgent support for the Kupuna Program through Molokai Rural Health Community Association.

I am one of more than 900 kupuna on our island who rely heavily on the essential services provided by this initiative. For many of us, these programs are not just "extras"—they are vital lifelines that we simply would not have access to otherwise.

The diverse range of services offered by Molokai Rural Health addresses our physical, mental, and practical needs in a way that honors our community. Specifically, the program provides:

- **Physical Wellness:** Services like **Lomilomi** and **kupuna stretching** help us maintain our mobility and physical health.
- **Cognitive and Technical Support:** Activities designed to strengthen cognitive function, alongside **computer and iPhone classes**, allow us to stay sharp and connected.
- **Navigating the Modern World:** As technology moves faster than many of us can comprehend, the staff at Molokai Rural Health acts as a "godsend." They provide the patience and expertise needed to help us navigate Medicare and the digital landscape of the modern world.
- **Essential Home Maintenance:** For many of us, including myself, tasks like yard cleaning have become impossible to manage alone. At my age, I can no longer handle a weed whacker or a lawn mower, and this support allows me to maintain my home with dignity.

The staff at Molokai Rural Health are a true asset to our island. They provide a level of care and support that is irreplaceable for the senior population of Moloka'i.

I respectfully ask that you prioritize and ensure the **continued funding** of this program. It is an investment in the health, safety, and well-being of nearly a thousand kupuna who have given so much to this community.

Mahalo for your time, your leadership, and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Estrelita Luczon

Moloka'i Resident

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

From: William Rhyne wcrhyne@gmail.com
Subject: Mayor
Date: April 9, 2026 at 3:31 PM
To: William Rhyne wcrhyne@gmail.com



April 9, 2026

Dear Mayor Bissen,

We would like to thank you for funding the Molokai Rural Health Community Association program for the last couple years. We look forward to your continued support in funding this program.

We have benefitted greatly from the services provided through this program and would like to see it continue. The services provided fulfill the many needs of the Kupuna in the community and are based on needs as expressed via feedback through evaluations.

The staff on Molokai has done an excellent job in providing these services. We know they have put a lot of thought into the services they are providing to ensure that everyone's needs are met in some way.

We have benefited by receiving services for haircuts, lomilomi, yard service, iPhone classes and a few others that are offered.

We thank you wholeheartedly for your support these past years and look forward to your continued support to see that this programs continues.

Mahalo,
William Rhyne *WR*
Lorraine Rhyne *LR*
Participants

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

4/9/2026

Testimony in Support of Funding for Molokai Rural Health Community Association

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

My name is Jane Takushi Inouye, and I am writing in strong support of funding for the Molokai Rural Health Community Association.

Mahalo nui loa for helping us kupuna here on our humble island of Molokai. Your support truly makes a difference in our daily lives.

It is becoming harder and harder for many of us to travel to Oahu or Maui for needed services, especially medical care. For kupuna, travel is not simple. Mobility can be difficult, and with the current travel situation, getting off-island for appointments and other important services can be stressful, exhausting, and sometimes impossible. That is why having as many services as possible available here on Molokai is so important.

I especially appreciate the help that is provided with Medicare questions and guidance, as well as legal assistance for important matters such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and health care directives. These are things that many of us need, but they can be confusing and difficult to handle without support.

I also deeply appreciate the help with house and yard cleaning. I still like to do what I can, and I am grateful to still be able to do some things for myself. But it means so much to have someone help with the things I cannot do anymore. The people who come to help are hardworking, respectful, and very kind to us.

In addition, the classes and activities offered are interesting, mentally stimulating, and helpful for keeping us healthy. Just as important, they give kupuna a chance to socialize and stay connected with one another, which is very important for our well-being.

For all of these reasons, I am in favor of continued funding for the Molokai Rural Health Community Association. Please support this important organization and the valuable services it provides to the kupuna and community of Molokai.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jane T. Inouye

Molokai Resident

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 9, 2026

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Bldg 9th Fl.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Aloha Mr. Mayor Bissen:

My name is Iwalani Kadowaki and I am writing in support of the Molokai Kupuna Program on Molokai. This program has many services that benefits our kupuna who are native Hawaiians as well as non-Hawaiians. I have used the foot health care, and many of my friends have use their services e.g. haircuts, yard work, and so forth.

Please continue to fund our Molokai Kupuna Program as it is important for our kupuna to have services like what I mentioned, because Molokai has limited resources and services.

Sincerely and Mahalo,

Iwalani Kadowaki
P.O. Box 151
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
(808) 419-8782

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Letter of Support for Funding and Continuance of the Kupuna Program

Susan Nartatez
PO Box 112
Kualapu'u, HI 96757
molokaiatheart@gmail.com
(808) 567-6211
April 9, 2026

The Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor of Maui County

Aloha e Mayor Bissen,

My name is Susan Nartatez, and I am writing for myself as well as my 94-year-old mother, Violeta Ragasa. We both utilize the services provided by the Kupuna Program, and we wholeheartedly support continued funding for this vital service that our kupuna population depends on. In a small, close-knit community like ours, where resources are limited and alternatives are few, this program has become an essential lifeline for elders who deserve dignity, care, and connection.

The Kupuna Program fills critical gaps that no other local service can meet. The lawn care services help keep our homes safe and accessible, especially for elders who can no longer manage heavy outdoor work. The lomi lomi treatments provide comfort, healing, and cultural grounding that nourish both body and spirit. Haircuts restore confidence and dignity. And the social activities offered through the program help combat isolation and keep our kupuna connected to one another and to the community.

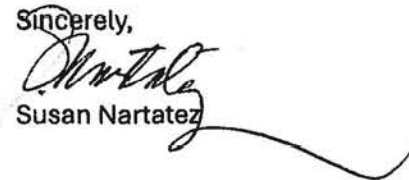
Recently, lawn care services stopped being provided in the area of my mother's home. As a result, on days when immediate family are not able to tend to her yard, she has taken it upon herself to weed-whack and rake her own yard — **something no 94-year-old should have to do**. I myself am on a waiting list for this service to be provided in my area, which shows just how stretched and limited the program's resources have become. These gaps highlight the urgent need for continued — and strengthened — funding so that kupuna are not left to struggle with tasks that put their health and safety at risk.

I have seen firsthand how much these services mean to my mother and to so many others. For her, the visits, the care, and the social interactions brighten her days and support her ability to remain at home — something deeply important to her. These moments remind us that the Kupuna Program is far more than a list of services; it is a source of companionship, cultural connection, and emotional support for those who have given so much to our community.

Without continued funding, our kupuna would lose essential support that helps them stay safe, healthy, and engaged. With so few local funding options and limited community resources, the loss of this program would create a void that we simply cannot fill on our own. Supporting the Kupuna Program is not just a financial decision — it is a commitment to honoring and caring for the people who raised us, taught us, and built the foundation of our community.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to continue funding the **Kupuna Program**. Your support ensures that small communities like ours can continue to uphold the values of respect, care, and aloha that define who we are.

Thank you for your consideration and for recognizing the importance of sustaining programs that truly make a difference where it matters most.

Sincerely,

Susan Nartatez

RECEIVED AT molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Support Letter to the Mayor

1 message

Rose O'Keefe <mkkrose316@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 2:26 PM

To: "kupunaprogram@gmail.com" <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

To: Mayor Bissen
From: Rose O'Keefe
Date: 4/10/26
Re: In Support of Molokai Kupuna Programs

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

Mahalo for supporting the Molokai Kupuna Program throughout the years. I've been privileged to partake in these awesome programs and pray these programs will continue.

I retired from the County of Maui in 2022 and have taken advantage of a few programs offered. I enjoy learning new crafts, lauhala weaving and lei hulu (feather lei) making in particular. It's my "therapy time" to mingle n enjoy other kupunas, make new connections and be creative in cultural arts. These are things that I could not do while working.

The program has so many activities geared to kupuna like specialty doctor for foot, getting discount with the EyeClinic, massages, hair cuts (limited here), specialist in Social Security, learning about Alzheimer, health awareness and many others.

This is why I am in support of this program and pray for continuance. Kuulei Arce and her awesome staff have worked so hard to coordinate these outlets for us and I am truly grateful for all they have done.

Lastly, although I don't know you personally, thank you for sharing your "home life" via fb clips. I enjoyed the one you are standing at the stove cooking something and your wife pops up in the background. Gives me the scenes of you being homegrown. And thank you also for looking after the people of Maui County throughout the fires, storms, floods, etc..

May God bless you!

Rose O'Keefe, Molokai Kupuna

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEH MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 5, 2026

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Molokai Kupuna Program and the many valuable services it provides to our kūpuna here on Molokai. This program plays an essential role in caring for our elders, who are the foundation of our community and the keepers of our culture, 'ike, and traditions.

The Molokai Kupuna Program offers a wide range of meaningful and practical services that support the overall well-being of our kūpuna. These include computer classes that help elders stay connected with family and access important resources, as well as services like haircuts, sewing assistance, and yard work that support daily living and dignity. The program also provides guidance on Medicare options, helping kūpuna better understand and access healthcare services that can often feel overwhelming.

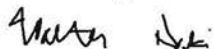
Living on Molokai comes with unique challenges, especially for our elders who may have limited access to transportation, healthcare, and support services. The Kupuna Program helps bridge these gaps by bringing services directly into the community and creating opportunities for connection, learning, and mālama.

More than just services, this program builds a strong sense of 'ohana. It reduces isolation, uplifts our kūpuna, and ensures they continue to feel valued, respected, and supported. The program provides services that we would otherwise, go without.

Continued funding and support for the Molokai Kupuna Program is vital. By investing in this program, we are honoring our kūpuna and strengthening the future of our community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter Naki

Molokai resident & Kupuna Program participant

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFD MEETING ON 4/13/26

Sharen Numa
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
April 10, 2026

The Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor of Maui County
200 S. High St., 9th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: Refund the Kupuna Program in the Maui County Budget

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I am writing to express my strong support to resume --and increase-- funding for the Kupuna program in the Maui County budget. As an active participant, I have personally experienced the meaningful benefits this program provides.

The Kupuna Program helped me maintain my autonomy, support my health, build social connections, and sustain emotional comfort—all essential for my living independently at home. These services are not luxuries; they are vital components of my well-being and for many of us in the kupuna community.

Unfortunately, last year's budget cuts significantly reduced access to important activities and services. Programs that supported cognitive development, such as painting, hula, and lei hulu, were scaled back. Health-focused offerings like stretch exercise classes were also reduced, along with well-being services, such as lomi lomi and haircuts. These losses have had a real and noticeable impact on my personal and financial well-being. Going off-island to obtain these services has been expensive and challenging with air transportation delays and cancelations.

The Kupuna program was especially important in helping me recover from the isolation brought on by COVID. It provided a safe and welcoming space to reconnect, engage, and heal. With the recent cuts, however, it feels as though we are being pushed back toward that same isolation. The absence of these services affects not just our daily routines, but our sense of connection and purpose.

I respectfully urge you to prioritize funding for the Kupuna program in the upcoming budget. Restoring and expanding these services will help ensure that seniors in our community can continue to live with dignity, independence, and a strong sense of belonging.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the well-being of Maui County's kupuna.

Sincerely,

Sharen Numa

RECEIVED AT ^{Molokai} BFE D MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kupuna Letter

1 message

Donna K <dilisakane@hotmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 11, 2026 at 9:07 AM

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I so very much appreciate our Kupuna Program on Molokai. Many of us kupuna would be lost without it! We don't communicate too much using new technology, or are aware of everything going on when we just sit at home watching tv.

This program gets us up and out exercising, interacting, and becoming a vital part of our community! I have attended tai chi, ceramics, card making, lomi lomi, haircuts, and vegetable and egg giveaways, and taken friends for their diabetic feet care. I even used the landscaping and yard cutting service when I fell and broke my arm. I don't have anyone to cut my yard and can't afford to pay on my social security income only, I usually cut it myself. I really appreciate feeling more involved and active thru the program. I would even volunteer on behalf of kupuna if you ask me to help.

I hope our Kupuna Program will be continued and our large kupuna population will not be forgotten.

The crew working for this program are exceptional and caring people. They check on us, make sure we're doing okay, and schedule us according to our needs. This service I consider essential to our well being.

I know times are tight and difficult. I really appreciate anything you can do to help keep this program running. It literally keeps us alive and moving, and gives us purpose. Thank you for your consideration Mayor. Have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,
Donna Kahue-Kane

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

RECEIVED AT Molokai
B FED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

Thank you for supporting and funding our essential Molokai Kupuna Program.

Our Kupuna needs this vital program on our island to provide necessary assistance in maintaining our health and welfare. In turn, we continue to lead healthier lives and be active in our communities.

I personally have benefited greatly thru the Lomi Lomi massages . (I have a shoulder issue and the massages I have received helped my healing process tremendously.) It helps heal my entire body from my head to my toes. Which in turn, improves my emotional wellbeing also.

Dr. Pitt's service has been essential for my foot care. I am "pre-diabetic "and walking is my daily mandatory routine to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. I am very grateful for his services to all our Kupuna. Foot care is vital for all Kupuna with diabetes!

I've benefited and appreciated all the healthy haircuts and even the wonderful Photography Classes that Kupuna Program has provided.

Kuulei and her awesome staff work very hard to help, assist, provide and support Kupuna on Molokai. They are dedicated to our valuable Kupuna Program. Please continue funding this amazing program that greatly affects our Kupuna. It makes a HUGE IMPACT on our physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. Thank you in advance, for caring and supporting our Molokai Kupuna also!

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Davis

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Dear Mayor,

I would like to express my support for the Kupuna program on Molokai.

I have been a member for many years and appreciate their services.

This program has provided me with massages, haircuts and even fresh food.

I'm able to see my podiatrist, Dr. Pitt, at the Kupuna program office, which is so convenient for me, and lastly I'm able to schedule a haircut as needed.

The employees are always so kind, respectful and attentive to my needs and I appreciate that.

I hope you will continue to support this very important program on Molokai.

Thank you,

Diane Dunnam

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Letter of Support for the Kupuna Program

1 message

Debbie Naeole <73debrinaeole@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 11, 2026 at 5:11 PM

April 10, 2026

The Honorable Mayor Richard Bissen
County of Maui

Dear Mayor Bissen:

I would like to mahalo you and the Maui County Council for supporting our kupuna program on Molokai. It has been a Godsend for us, kupuna, to have a program like this for the past several years and hoping it will continue for more years to come.

It is important for na kupuna to be able to participate in the programs that are offered. It keeps our minds alert, bodies flexible and moving and our hearts beating.

I participate in ka papa hula, which engages haumana in physical exercises doing basic fundamentals. It engages our minds/memory to remember motions and steps required to perform the hula.

Pickleball helps us with cardio exercises, as well as our minds, thinking strategically where to place the ball so our opponents will not be able to return it. After all that running around, we need to get lomi lomi to relax our tired muscles and

get rejuvenated by our favorite masseuse.

Papa lei hulu and sewing also relaxes my brain and helps me to take it easy. I love when the creative juices run through my

mind! I also love getting together with the ladies to kukakuka and socialize.

The kupuna program helps me to be active and gives me a better outlook/purpose on my retirement life.

Mayor Bissen, please, I am asking that you continue to support our kupuna program because it does make a difference in all our lives!

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Ann R Naeole
Participant in the Kupuna Program

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 3, 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen
C/O Kuulei Arce
Molokai Rural Health Community Association
Post Office Box 290614
Hoolehua, Hawaii. 96729

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

I am writing in support of the Molokai Rural Health Community program. It has been a huge blessing to our community as a whole and to me personally. I live at Home Pumehana, the senior housing on Molokai.

I have benefitted by using many of the services so expertly provided: haircuts, housecleaning, lomi, podiatry, and other wonderful regular arts and crafts classes. I have also received a couple of donated bags of locally-grown produce through Sustainable Molokai.

Kuulei Arce is a huge asset and has been so professional and helpful. She and her staff are always there when I need help or get questions answered...and they always help with a smile on their faces and aloha in their hearts.

I hope with all my heart that you and the Council will continue to fund this highly popular program on Molokai.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Elaine Johnson
P.O. Box 212
Kaunakakai, HI. 96748

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/3/26

April 1, 2026

Richard T. Bissen Jr
Mayor
Maui County

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

I wish to voice my support for Molokai Rural Health Community Association (MRHCA) and ask that the County of Maui do the same.

I have had numerous interactions with MRHCA and can always depend upon them for not only advice, but for daily living improvements and motivation.

Recently, The Queen's Medical Center announced that they would no longer be accepting Humana insurance. MRCHA was one of the first places on island to reach out to us kupuna and get us support for replacing our medical coverage. This was a HUGE relief to have a face-to-face, licensed insurance agent to speak with who understood our needs.

Secondly the program has supplied us with nourishing mea ai, such as eggs and fresh produce. This means that I can afford to purchase something else that I would not normally have the funds for.

The weekly fitness and social programs as well as lomilomi appointments are essential to my mental and physical health. As a senior I look forward to interacting with others in classes and to keeping my body going!

The Computer Class that they offer is tailored to "our level" of understanding and the instructor provided extremely valuable information with regard to avowing scams, how to keep in touch safely with ohana and how we can use it as a resource for managing daily living events.

Thank you for allowing this program to continue on Moloka'i.

Mahalo,

Ana Char

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Theresa Tamanaha
PO Box 248
Kualapuu, HI 96757
Phone: (808) 658-0925

The Honorable Richard Bissen Mayor
County of Maui 200 S. High Street, 9th Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Subject: The Vital Impact of the Molokai Rural Health Community Association on Our Kupuna

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I am writing to you today as a concerned resident and a devoted daughter to share how much the Molokai Rural Health Organization (MRHCA) means to our community, and specifically, to my mother.

As a senior living on Molokai, my mother faces unique challenges in accessing consistent care and social engagement. The MRHCA has become her lifeline. It is far more than just a medical facility; it is a hub of dignity, health, and joy for our kupuna.

What makes this organization truly exceptional is the people. I want to personally mention the warm, dedicated service of Kuulei and the entire staff. They treat every senior with such genuine aloha and respect, making my mother feel seen and valued every time she walks through the door.

Through their programs, my mother receives essential health checkups, podiatry care, and even yard cleaning services that ensure her home remains a safe and manageable environment. The "senior awareness" programs provide clarity on complex issues like Medicare health options and advance directives, ensuring our elders are protected and informed.

Beyond the clinical, the MRHCA nourishes her spirit. Whether it's the physical activity of Tai Chi, the mental stimulation of bingo, or the cultural enrichment of walks and tours to learn about native sights and values, she is staying active and connected. From lomi lomi sessions and haircuts to holiday get-togethers and performing arts, the MRHCA ensures our seniors are truly thriving.

I also want to highlight the vital support for caregivers. The MRHCA provides much-needed respite, giving families the breathing room necessary to avoid burnout. More importantly, they teach us the skills to make this season of life a memorable and special time for our loved ones.

Mayor Bissen, the Molokai Rural Health Community Association is a cornerstone of our island's well-being. I urge you to continue supporting the resources that allow Kuulei and her team to serve our kupuna. They are making a profound difference in the lives of those who built the community we love today.

Mahalo for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to the people of Molokai.

Me ka hō'ihī,

Theresa Tamanaha

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 5, 2026

Aloha!

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I am writing this letter of appreciation for all the services that the Molokai Rural Health Community Association provides for the kupuna of Molokai.

This kupuna program has assisted so many kupuna in gaining access to - limited, much- needed, services here on our island.

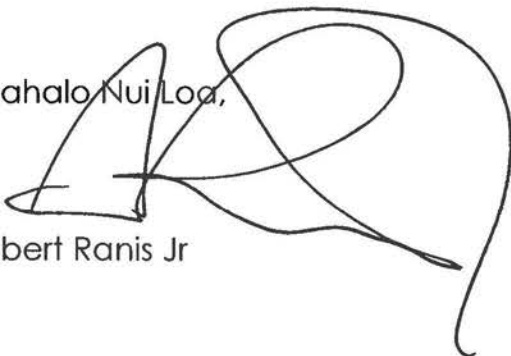
I am truly thankful for all the lomilomi (massage) sessions and haircuts I was able to receive through this program. I am also currently attending computer classes, and I enjoy it because it challenges me to acquire and develop new computer skills. The computer literacy gained so far has allowed me to keep up with the evolving technologies of today.

From improving my overall health and prioritizing self-care to learning new computer skills, these activities have made a positive impact to my life and well-being. Not to mention, the socialization opportunities make it so much more enjoyable, with fellow kupuna of our community. It's pleasant to share and tell of the many ways this program has provided aid to all of us here.

I appreciate Ku'ulei Arce and her staff for their time, dedication and heart to help spirit. From coordinating with the respective people, the planning & preparation, as well as providing the necessary tools/supplies needed – this team and their hard work never go unnoticed. All the good this brings, along with the great staff, this kupuna program truly is a blessing to all who seek services. It is my hope that this program can remain funded for many years to come.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Albert Ranis Jr

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Albert Ranis Jr', written over the printed name.

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 1, 2026

To: Mayor Richard Bissen,

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

I'm writing to share with you how grateful I am for the Molokai Kupuna Program. It has been such a blessing in my life during very difficult times. Due to 2 surgeries and a stroke in 2025, I haven't been able to do much for myself. Having the services available to me that this program offers enables me to maintain my home.

With all the activities that are offered, ex, Taichi, pickleball, water aerobics, flex fit, hula, ceramics, lauhala, sewing, computer and more, the kupuna program keeps us involved mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically. I can't stress enough how important this program is to the kupuna of Molokai, where opportunities are limited.

I ask that you would prayerfully and thoughtfully continue funding this program that is so needed on Molokai. The cost of living on Molokai is so high with gas prices at \$7.09 per gallon, electric prices are some of the highest in the nation, and our food prices are outrageous because of the monopoly Young Brothers has over Molokai. Many of our families have to move to the mainland because they can no longer afford to live here. Even though the services that the kupuna program offer seem sometimes small, it's those things that make a huge difference that have to be sacrificed because there's not money left over at the end of the month.

I realize there are pressing needs for this year's budget, but I hope you will find a way to continue support for this much needed program.

Mahalo,

Jan Place

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFBP MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 6, 2026

Dear Mayor Richard Bissen,

My name is Leslie Dunbar and I am a kupuna on Molokai. Along with 900 other kupuna, we would like to let you know that we are very grateful for the funding that Maui County provides to the Molokai Kupuna Program.

The Molokai Kupuna Program has been a life line for many of our elders, offering some essential services like Dr Pitt, yard cleaning and household help but also in providing opportunities for many otherwise isolated folks to socialize, like card making, sewing, lauhala weaving and to exercise and take care of their bodies like lomi and exercise classes.

As you know, Molokai does not offer very many options for the kinds of services the Kupuna Program has made available to us. We thank you so much for the funding that you have provided thus far and we sincerely hope that the funds can continue. It would mean so much to so many Molokaian.

Mahalo nui,
Leslie Dunbar

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BPEO MEETING ON 4/13/24

April 3, 2026

The Honorable Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I am writing in support of the Molokai Kupuna Program. This initiative offers many services that support health and the need for independence. With a growing aging population and the lack of many health and social services, this program meets a crucial need.

Health & Wellness programs provide haircuts, foot care, exercise, Lomolomi massage and more, all things that can be difficult to get here. I have personally used all of the services mentioned and felt enriched knowing such caring people exist in my life.

Cultural Activities and Education programs are also offered. After each class, you come away with a deep feeling of gratitude for the support.

Kuulei Arce and her staff are very professional but also warm and inviting and always welcoming. They have done an amazing job and work diligently to provide these services to the community. I hope you continue the support of this essential program.

Respectfully,

Diane Pike
PO Box 169
Kualapuu, Wi. 96757
808 658-0154

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

To Mayor Bissen,

I'm writing on behalf of the Kupuna Program we have on our Island of Molokai. Although we have only recently started participating in this program, we are already very grateful for the service and support being provided.

We especially appreciate the foot care service, help with yard cleaning, and the regular check-in. These may seem like small things, but they make a big difference in our daily lives and overall well-being. It brings comfort knowing that someone is looking out for us.

We are also thankful for the time and effort the staff put into researching and sharing important information for us, including medical resources, Social Security, and other services. These systems can be confusing, and having guidance is truly helpful.

Since we are new to the program, we have not yet had the chance to participate in the full range of activities offered. However, we are looking forward to trying them in the future.

We appreciate all the hard work and care that goes into this program. It is already making a positive impact, and we believe it will continue to benefit many Kupuna in our community.

In our opinion, this program is important and worthy of continued support and funding.

Sincerely,

Pat & Cora Sanchez

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Jane Woolsey

3013 PuuKapele Ave
Hoolehua, HI 96729
woolzjane@gmail.com

April 10, 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing in support of the kupuna program on Molokai. This program has involved many, many people, and has had a very positive impact. As a kupuna myself, I have attended several Lomilomi sessions, received a few haircuts and recently started participating in the new water aerobics class which is fantastic.

I have also been very pleased with the service I received to assist me navigating through the Medicare program from a certified Medicare insurance agent that is provided through the Kupuna program as well.

From socialization opportunities to improving my physical health to keeping my outward appearance acceptable, each of these activities has been a positive influence on my life.

Some of my friends in the water aerobics class commented about how much they appreciate being able to have a Lomilomi along with some house cleaning or yard work hours through the program. Some also attend the classes such as sewing or painting and the program provides the materials for them. This is so helpful for Kupuna who survive on a fixed income.

Ku'ulei Arce and her staff have done an outstanding job in providing these services for our community. They are constantly working hard to learn and meet the needs of our Molokai elders. In my opinion, this program is well worth funding. The good it does is how they say "priceless" in its worth to our community.

Please continue funding this well-deserved program for Kupuna.

Mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,

Jane Woolsey

Molokai Resident

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Mayor Richard Bissen

Wailuku, HI

Aloha Mayor Bissen

As we all prepare and wait for the next Kona Low storm, we know there are many requests for financial help arriving on your desk every day. Molokai was hit hard and the cleanup continues. The devastation that occurred at the Kapaakea Cemetery is heartbreaking. The bulldozers continue to drive by our house moving the huge mounds of mud. And so, knowing that you are hearing from every community in Maui County, also with huge needs and requests, we continue to ask that you include the Molokai Rural Health Community Association in your budget.

It is a wonderful program that has benefited the kupuna on Molokai in unbelievable ways. Many of the programs bring "stay at home" kupuna out of their homes to attend special events that Kuulei and her staff have created. The classes and learning continues. Our generation has much to learn on the computer, and I've taken the class many times and along with learning, I also encountered friends I haven't seen in such a long time. There is not a beauty shop on Molokai that will take any new clients, and having the haircuts has been helpful to many. I live alone, and the yard service has been a huge help for me. I have enjoyed many of the programs and events, and I see only happy faces with gratitude and thankfulness at every event.

Molokai is a "family" island with family events being the most important events of their year. Under Kuulei's guidance and her wonderful staff, the family luau takes on a whole new feeling. The kupuna have been out of their house, challenged with new classes, learning new information about Medicare and Social Security, having a renewed interest in everything around them, and the spirit at the luau is uplifted for everyone. The Molokai Rural Health Community Association, with all the events, classes, and health care, benefits far beyond just the kupuna but all the way to their grandchildren who find them so excited about life and new adventures rather than having sat in their home day after day. This program has lifted the spirits of all of Molokai for all the years they have honored the kupuna.

And so, we say a grateful thank you for your care and funding these past years, and we ask again for this year as the benefits of this incredible program are visible in every encounter with our Molokai kupuna.

Many thanks and with much aloha,

Judy Mertens

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Subject: Support for Continued Funding – Molokai Rural Health Community Association

Dear Mayor Bissen

Aloha,

I write this letter from the heart, with deep gratitude and hope for the continued support of the Molokai Rural Health Community Association.

Here on Molokai we live a simple life. With a small population and limited resources, we depend on programs like this not as luxuries, but as necessities. For our kupuna, this association is more than a service-it is car, connection, and dignity.

Our elders are the backbone of this island. They are our storytellers, our teachers, and our foundation. Through this program, they receive services that many of us might take for granted-relief from pain through massage, essential foot care through podiatry, and opportunities to stay active and engaged through aerobics, tai chi, and even creative outlets like drama classes.

These are not just activities. They are lifelines.

As I grow older and become a kupuna, I look forward to being able to utilize and benefit from these services as well, just as many in our community do today.

Without continued funding, we risk losing something truly irreplaceable. We risk leaving our kupuna without the support they deserve after a lifetime of giving to this community.

I humbly ask that you continue to support and fund the Molokai Rural Health Community Association for another year. This investment goes far beyond dollars-it strengthens the health, spirit, and heart of Molokai.

Mahalo for your time, your compassion, and your leadership.

With respect and appreciation

Eloise L. Duvauchelle

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Kupuna Program Funding Request

1 message

Yvonne Everhart <yeverhart@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 1:54 PM

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I am writing to express my strong support for the KUPUNA Program on Molokai and to request that you prioritize its funding in the upcoming budget. As an 80-year-old widow and a program participant, I have personally experienced the significant positive impact this initiative has on our community.

The KUPUNA Program provided invaluable resources during my husband's illness, including specialized cooking classes and guidance on estate planning and document organization. Since his passing in February 2025, the program has continued to be a vital source of support. The social engagement, gracious staff, and various services—such as lomi lomi, haircuts, and medical appointments with Dr. Pitt—have been instrumental in reducing stress and fostering a sense of community.

Furthermore, the educational offerings have been exceptional. The computer classes have increased my confidence in navigating modern technology, while the painting classes have provided a meaningful creative and social outlet as I reintegrate into social activities.

I urge you to continue funding the KUPUNA Program to ensure these essential services remain available to the seniors of Molokai. Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Everhart

808-658-0011

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 4, 2026

Kaunakakai, Molokai, HI.

To the honorable Mayor Richard Bissen,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the most beneficial and significant program that I as a kupuna (elders) of Molokai, have experienced. Thanks to the mayors who have thoughtfully provided funding, and to Ku'ulei Arce and her devoted staff members for their continuous kokua in organizing all the services we have benefited from!

The following services have proved invaluable to my health and well being in so many ways. I am sure I speak for hundreds of others when I say this:

Diabetic footcare by Chisa has been a Godsend, for those of us with edema, diabetes, and other chronic conditions. Dr. Pitt is an invaluable resource for footcare as well.

Lomi Lomi massage therapy services have a three-month waitlist because so many of us rely on this additional care to move freely. In addition, computer classes are an absolute necessity, enabling elders to navigate this technological age with constant computer updates.

Also culturally, the Laau lapa au programs provide an opportunity to learn about and keep our Hawaiian heritage and traditional healing practices alive!

Furthermore, on a spiritual, social, artistic and emotional level, the hula, tai chi, music and art programs enrich our lives in countless ways, providing an outlet for community and camaradie among all of us.

I ask for your generous consideration and contribution to the Kupuna Program, and I thank you in advance. It is the most vital and appreciated program here on Molokai. Nothing compares to what it provides. Please ensure that our Kupuna Program remains active, alive and well, so that we too may remain in the best of health on all levels in the coming years.

Lastly, I will speak on behalf of hundreds of kupuna who may not be able to write to you at this time, possibly because of their health challenges, and disabilities that may compromise their ability to write anything at this time. Many of us live alone and some days it is all we can do to take care of ourselves and attend whatever programs we can. That doesnt mean we don't appreciate deeply all the services and kokua from you, and the Kupuna Program staff that makes it all possible.

Sincerely, Aloha Nui Loa Pumehana and Mahalo Nui Loa,

Maile Orme

Resident of Kaunakakai, Molokai, and kupuna program member

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei Arce <22kuulei@gmail.com>

Letter to Mayor Bissen - April 7, 2026

1 message

Judy Mertens <judymertens@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei Arce <22kuulei@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 7, 2026 at 3:11 PM

Mayor Richard Bissen
Wailuku, HI

Aloha Mayor Bissen

As we all prepare and wait for the next Kona Low storm, we know there are many requests for financial help arriving on your desk every day. Molokai was hit hard and the cleanup continues. The devastation that occurred at the Kapaakea Cemetery is heartbreaking. The bulldozers continue to drive by our house moving the huge mounds of mud. And so, knowing that you are hearing from every community in Maui County, also with huge needs and requests, we continue to ask that you include the Molokai Rural Health Community Association in your budget.

It is a wonderful program that has benefited the kupuna on Molokai in unbelievable ways. Many of the programs bring "stay at home" kupuna out of their homes to attend special events that Kuulei and her staff have created. The classes and learning continues. Our generation has much to learn on the computer, and I've taken the class many times and along with learning, I also encountered friends I hadn't seen in such a long time. There is not a beauty shop on Molokai that will take any new clients, and having the haircuts has been helpful to many. I live alone, and the yard service has been a huge help for me. I have enjoyed many of the programs and events, and I see only happy faces with gratitude and thankfulness at every event.

Molokai is a "family" island with family events being the most important events of their year. Under Kuulei's guidance and her wonderful staff, the family luau takes on a whole new feeling. The kupuna have been out of their house, challenged with new classes, learning new information about Medicare and Social Security, having a renewed interest in everything around them, and the spirit at the luau is uplifted for everyone. The Molokai Rural Health Community Association, with all the events, classes, and health care, benefits far beyond just the kupuna but all the way to their grandchildren who find them so excited about life and new adventures rather than having sat in their home day after day. This program has lifted the spirits of all of Molokai for all the years they have honored the kupuna.

And so, we say a grateful thank you for your care and funding these past years, and we ask again for this year as the benefits of this incredible program are visible in every encounter with our Molokai kupuna.

Many thanks and with much aloha, Judy Mertens

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 7, 2026

To: The Honorable Richard Bissen
Mayor of Maui County

Dear Mayor Bissen,

As a participant and beneficiary of the Kupuna program on Molokai, I'm writing to ask you to support funding to continue this program in the next fiscal year.

As you may know, services, especially for kupuna, are very limited on Molokai. The Kupuna program has been a lifeline for many to provide essential services and build community where kupuna feel wanted and included.

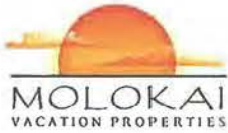
As one recent example, after the kona storms, I received a phone call from staff at the Kupuna program to check on my welfare and to see if I needed any assistance. Fortunately, I was one of the lucky few who dodged the worst of the storms, but I know many households that were utterly destroyed. I can imagine that for those kupuna so adversely affected, the warm and caring phone call not only uplifted their spirits but also connected them to much needed help.

I very much appreciate your past support of the Kupuna program and I trust that you will make sure that this valuable service is not lost for us here on Molokai.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,
Gaellen Quinn
gaellenquinn@yahoo.com
(808)862-4001

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Molokai Vacation Properties,

Real Estate Sales, RB 22987

April 7, 2026

Mayor Bissam
Maui County
Kaunakakai - Molokai

Aloha Mayor Bissam,

I want to thank you for the past services the Kapuna Program has received in our Rural Community of Molokai. There are so many programs the Kapuna were able to get which are not something that is always on our island.

It saddens me to hear that with all the budget cuts our Kapuna program will have to stop and jobs lost to those who participated with the Kapuna Program and Kapuna losing this vital programs on our island.

Kuulei and her staff are always helpful to assist anyone in need. Many times we have been offered fresh vegetables, hair cut, eye exam, computer, foot care and so much more.

I would hate to see a program loose it funding. It saddens me with the short term rental being shut down, more money for these programs will go by the west side.

These Kapuna need these programs. Please reconsider funding us on Molokai.

Aloha

Dayna E Harris.

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

130 Kamehameha V Hwy (o) 189 Makanui Rd (m) Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Office # (808) 553 8335

www.realestatemolokai.com

CHARLES BOSTWICK
5520 Kamehameha V Hwy
Kaanakakai, Hawaii 96748

Aloha -

My name is CHARLES McCorriston Bostwick and I live in Kaunaloa Molokai. I'll be 70 years old this year and value immensely the Kupuna Program we have on this island. It contributes in a positive manner to many, many things in my life. From haircuts, footcare, lomilomi, medicare advise and other services, these all play a role in benefitting me and my wife (BARBARA Bostwick) throughout the year.

Please keep funding this important service for the kupuna on Molokai. Without Maui Counties Kōkua, this program will be impacted which in turn impacts all of us seniors here on Molokai. This is important for us. Molokai struggles with many issues, please do not add more to our plate. Fund this program in the next fiscal Budget. 😊

MAHAUO NUI HOA,

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Charlie + BARBARA BOSTWICK (ml)

April 8, 2026

To Mayor Bissen:

I am writing in support of the kupuna program on Molokai. As a kupuna myself, I have had several massages. I get a haircut, get help for cleaning my house and yard service.

As participants of this program, we have received help in navigating government systems such as social security and Medicare. They can be very difficult to understand and deal with.

Ku'u lei Arce and her staff have done an outstanding job in providing these services for our community. They are constantly working hard to learn and meet the needs of our Molokai elders. In my opinion, this program is well worth funding. The good it does spreads out in a ripple effect, enriching our entire community.

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Dear Mayor Richard Bissen,

I am writing with sincere gratitude for your past support in allocating budget funds to supplement the Kupuna Program on Molokai. Your kindness and commitment have truly touched the lives of many seniors in our community.

For our kupuna, this program is so much more than a service — it is a source of connection, dignity, and care. The activities offered, including hula, massage, gardening assistance, help with light housework, and foot care, bring comfort, joy, and a sense of being valued. These simple but meaningful services help our seniors remain active, independent, and uplifted in spirit.

I humbly ask that you please consider supporting this program again in the upcoming budget. Continuing this funding would mean so much to the kupuna who rely on it not just for assistance, but for companionship and quality of life.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, your heart, and your continued dedication to the people of Maui County. Your leadership makes a difference that is deeply felt.

With gratitude,

Lynn Duggan

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



April 8, 2026

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Building, 9th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Aloha e Mayor Bissen,

On behalf of the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association (HSRHA), I am writing to express our strong support for continued funding of the Moloka'i Kupuna Program.

HSRHA serves as the fiscal agent for this program and works closely with the Moloka'i Rural Health Community Association (MRHCA) and other partners to ensure effective implementation and stewardship of funds. Since its launch in 2021, the program has grown to serve hundreds of kūpuna on Moloka'i, providing essential services that support health, independence, and quality of life.

The Moloka'i Kupuna Program addresses critical gaps in a rural community facing geographic isolation, limited healthcare access, and a growing aging population. Services such as basic care, home support, and social engagement opportunities help kūpuna remain safely in their homes while staying connected to their community.

The program also continues to strengthen partnerships and coordination across the island. In addition to longstanding collaborations with county and community providers, we are encouraged by the recent engagement of the American Heart Association as a new partner, further expanding resources and support available to Moloka'i's kūpuna.

Continued County funding is essential to sustain these services and the trusted network that has been built. The Moloka'i Kupuna Program is a proven, community-driven effort that is making a meaningful difference in the lives of kūpuna and their caregivers.

Mahalo for your continued leadership and commitment to the well-being of Moloka'i residents.

Mahalo nui loa,


Summer Mochida-Meek
Executive Director
summer@hsrha.org

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 8, 2026

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Bldg 9th Fl.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Aloha Mr. Mayor Bissen:

I am writing in support of the Molokai Kupuna Program on Molokai, run by the Molokai Rural Health Community Association (MRHCA). My name is Debbie Benjamin and I am on the board for the MRHCA and also the head for our ALU LIKE Inc. – Ke Ola Pono No Na Kupuna (KOPP) for our native Hawaiian kupuna program here on Molokai.

When Molokai Kupuna Program started back in July of 2021, I had a part of calling our native Hawaiian participants who were part of our ALU LIKE Inc. - KOPP program to see if our participants were interested in having haircuts, seeing a podiatrist, and simple yard work. Many were happy to give their names and numbers and were signed up with the Molokai Kupuna Program.

Because this included not only native Hawaiians but non-Hawaiians as well, the Molokai Kupuna Program participants increased, and now there are about 900 plus participants today. The program that was suppose to be only for six months has been in place about five years now. The program grew with many other services provided e.g. ceramics, painting, learning basic computer, sewing, Medicare and Social Security assistance; and much more.

I am not directly using the services yet because I am working. However, I believe partnering and collaborating with other senior programs can bring much needed services for our elderly and caregivers in our community. For example, I make it a point to invite our partners and other programs such as, Molokai Kupuna Program, Kaunoa Senior Services, Office on Aging, Home Pumehana and community to come to our program site at the Molokai Community Health Center whenever we have workshops or presentations that will benefit our elderly or caregivers e.g. Brain Health, Advance Health Directive, Hospice, and so forth.

For us here on Molokai I feel having the Molokai Kupuna Program, Kaunoa Senior Services, other kupuna services, as well as our program are so needed and beneficial for the good health and living of our elderly. Because we all will grow old and services for health, nutrition, socialization, and the well-being of the elderly to live a healthy and long life is so important to everyone in this community.

So, I want to stress how important Molokai Kupuna Program has been for the elderly community as its services benefits the elderly Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians. This is a productive contribution by the Molokai Kupuna Program.

Sincerely and Mahalo,

Debbie Benjamin
Program Specialist
ALU LIKE Inc. – KOPP
(808) 658-1814

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEY MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 9, 2026

Aloha Mayor Bissen

I am writing to you on behalf of the Molokai Rural Health Association-Kupuna Program. I have been so lucky to receive and use services that are very beneficial to my health and wellbeing. These services and programs that I use are Haircuts, Podiatry, Medicare Consultations, Foot care, and Lomilomi Sessions. These services are helpful to me to maintain my wellness.

Socialization is very important to our mental state of mind as well, so when I come to these appointments, I get to talk stories and meet new people as well.

I ask you Mayor Bissen for your support to please help fund this Kupuna Program. It is a very viable part of our community.

Mahalo Mayor Bissen for your time.

Mahalo Nui,

Sandra English

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 8, 2026

Richard T Bissen Jr., Mayor

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

As frequent recipients of services provided by the Molokai Rural Health Community Association we are pleased to have this opportunity to express our gratitude.

For many of us, this program is a Godsend. Without MRHCA, many of the services they provide are not available on Molokai. We have no resident foot care specialist which is a must for many Kupuna. We are also grateful for the haircut service of which there are no other options on island. Due to financial constraints, many of our residents would forgo regular massages that we, personally, have found to alleviate back issues and other aches and pains. Additionally, we have found the yard care service to be invaluable. As we age, what was once quick and easy is now nearly impossible to attain on our own. This service is not only esthetically welcome but is a fire prevention necessity. The plethora of services, many more than mentioned here, give the Kupuna ample opportunity to maintain the health of body, mind, and spirit.

We have always believed that communities should play a role in the care of their Kupuna. As we age, this belief becomes more relevant. Rather than just provide medical care, the MRHCA provides a means of prevention ensuring a quality of life that may otherwise be unattainable.

Ku'ulei and the staff of MRHCA go above and beyond to serve the community with compassion, understanding and professionalism. As Kupuna, it is reassuring to know that they are there if and when we need them.

We humbly ask that you do all you can to ensure this invaluable program is continually funded for the health and well being of our Kupuna and the community.

With sincere appreciation,

Walter and Kathleen Mendes

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Thank you

1 message

Nancy and Wren Wescoatt <wnwescoatt@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 8, 2026 at 11:33 AM

Dear Mayor and Maui County Council,

I would like to thank you for funding the "Kupuna Program" on Molokai in past years.

It has been helpful to so many people here who have difficulty maintaining a comfortable life as they grow older. Many do not have family available to help with certain chores, and many do not have the resources for extras for personal care to keep themselves feeling good, a simple thing like a haircut or massage that can lift their spirits and help with general aches and pains.

It has been helpful to my husband who has not been well, and to me as a caregiver. It is a little respite and stress reliever. It has been super to be able to have the lawn mowed when we couldn't do it ourselves, and I am sure the other beneficiaries of the program feel the same.

There are more offerings of learning opportunities and classes that would be valuable for the future.

I really do hope the program can continue, I have shared with many friends in other places just what a wonderful thing Maui County is doing for the Molokai older community.

Aloha and a sincere mahalo
Nancy Wescoatt

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Honorable Mayor Bissen

I am writing this letter of appreciation on behalf of myself and my husband. We are so blessed to have this program available to us and many of our Molokai kūpuna. Though we don't take advantage of all the different opportunities we look forward to our lomilomi as we are very active and need this. We also are a part of the La'au Lapa'au classes and we even joined in on the 40 day alkaline diet reset, cleanse. I occasionally see Dr Pitt, and he has helped me with some foot issues. Here on Molokai, we have very limited services and just know that this program means a lot to us. Mahalo for continued support.

Ke aloha pū

Shane and Stefani Bush

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Schalene Darr
PO Box 1863
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

April 9, 2026

Kupuna Program

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing you to please support the kupuna program on Molokai. It is a program that provides activities, community for our aging citizens, and purpose as community members. Without this program, kupuna will be not engaged and active. Half of the battle is getting them out into the community with classes that are of interest to them.

My knowledge of the kupuna program stem from watching the kupuna being active in pickleball, and water aerobics. Within the pickleball activities, I have personally seen growth in physical and mental growth. Those that started as newbies are now confident and active in the sport.

In the water aerobics class, of which I am the instructor, the group is feeling stronger both physically and emotionally. It gives them a sense of independence and confidence that they are capable of getting out and having balance, strength and a sense of community with myself and others in the class. They feel successful!

Providing kupunas with activities to get out and being social is important as we age to have ownership in our growth as humans. Connectedness provides a positive sense of self worth and importance to our community. They have given to the community as they have aged and it is time to give back opportunities to them to know that they are valued. The program gives a diverse set of opportunities for each to choose classes that they find intriguing and sometimes challenging, which is an important part of keeping the mind sharp and stimulated. Learning is a life long journey and the kupuna program allows our kupuna to continue to grow as they age.

Please consider how positive of a program this is for not only the kupuna, but for our entire community!

Sincerely



Schalene Darr

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Honorable Mayor, I am writing to express my gratitude for the exceptional services provided to the seniors on the island of Molokai through the Molokai Rural Health Community Association. As a senior resident, I have personally benefited from these services such as massage therapy, foot care exams, hair cuts, medicare consultation, computer training to mention a few, which has significantly improved my well being and quality of life as well as for other seniors in our community. These programs have been a vital lifeline, promoting health, independence, and connection for Molokai seniors. On behalf of myself and fellow senior residents, I respectfully request that the county continue its essential support for this program to ensure these benefits reach future generations of seniors. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our community. I look forward to the continued support and positive impact of these services.

Sincerely,

Molokai kupuna

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Kupuna Program

1 message

Harold Kinne <hakinnecal@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 1:17 PM

To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Mr. Mayor, my name is Harold Kinne. I'm 71 years old and live in Ualapue. I'm writing you to let you know that the Kupuna Program has helped me very much. Without it, my life would be much more difficult, as i have a vertabrae problem and am unable to do the tasks that the program helps me with. I very much hope that the program continues to help me and others like me.

Yours Truly, Harold Kinne .

RECEIVED AT malokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Emily D. Pierro
edp99@icloud.com

April 9, 2026

Aloha Dear Mayor Bissen,

Greetings from our Molokai Rural Health Community Association where I am a longstanding member and have greatly benefitted from this program since its founding. I am so thankful to Kuulei and staff for all the services they provide us with love, sensitivity, compassion and professionalism. And I want to also express my gratitude Mayor Bissen for your support of our Kapuna program funding each year. I respectfully ask that you prioritize funding with your continued support and include MRHCA in the 2027-2028 Budget.

Please support our kapuna....so many of us depend on these services. Kuulei and staff continually reach out, listen and make sure all of us are treated with dignity and respect. They go beyond their means to provide the necessary care.

The whole community is far better off due to this program, knowing kapuna receive help right here on our island. It is the only place on island we can go to for personal support and attention for our many needs. It provides us with a sense of belonging, connections through social interactions, wellness activities, workshops, medical /SS/Medicare assistance & resource information and much much more. As a kapuna myself, I personally participate in several ongoing programs, and would have no replacement options, especially with the Podiatrist, if the program did not continue. Please, again I ask, fund and support our MRHCA Program. We are so appreciative.

Thank you so much for your attention to this important matter.

Kind regards,
Emily Pierro

RECEIVED AT Moloka
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kapuna budget for Kapuna project

1 message

Dalyne Vickery <dalynevickery57@gmail.com>
To: "kupunaprogram@gmail.com" <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Sun, Apr 12, 2026 at 11:32 AM

Aloha,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Kupuna program and its future funding.

The Kupuna program has been essential to my overall health and well-being. It has helped me with pain management and services that I could not afford on my own, including:

1. Podiatry
2. Foot care
3. Haircuts
4. Lomi lomi
5. Monthly food assistance

This program is a godsend for all Kupuna in need of quality healthcare outside of regular doctors' care. It is well-loved and deeply appreciated by our community. I hope that you will consider the vital role this program plays in supporting those of us who rely on it.

Mahalo,

Dalyne K. Vickery

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

BUDGET HEARIING

Diane Butler <diane-butler@att.net>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Sun, Apr 12, 2026 at 10:23 AM

To: Mayor Richard Bissen
From: Diane Butler
Re: Budget Support

I am a resident of Molokai...
2736 Kamehameha V Hwy
Kaunakakai HI

I retired here after my career with NPS at Haleakalā National Park.

The Kupuna Program offered here has benefited me, and others, both physically and mentally. The sense of belonging is awesome. In the past I have received lomi massage, help with housework, guidance on organizing important documents. I miss many of the group activities such as Bingo, Lei Day celebrations, etc. I understand these cuts were due to budget restraints.

I'm asking for your support to include funding in 2027's budget for Molokai's Rural Health. It's hard to believe we're not even on the budget at this point.

I'd also like to thank the wonderful staff you have working on this program. It's not only a pleasure seeing them in the office but, once again I get that feeling of connection when I see them out and about in town.

Thank you for your consideration
Diane Butler

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2026, at 2:46 PM, Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Molokai
REVIEWED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Want to support

1 message

Debbie Kingsley <debbiekingsley9@gmail.com>
To: "kupunaprogram@gmail.com" <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 1:12 PM

Aloha Mayor,

I enjoy a few of the services that the kupuna programs provide us. Thank you. A few craft and sewing projects. I look forward to working with the groups. I've also been given some food support for our family too. I remember a letter coming through about Humana being dropped as our insurance, I email the program and they organized solutions for us. It's a good program and I hope you can continue to fund it for us old folks. We appreciate them and they are so friendly and approachable

Mahalo

Debbie kingsley

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

kupuna program support letter

1 message

Arabella Ark <arabellaark@icloud.com>
To: kupunaprogram@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 1:17 PM

Support Letter for Molokai Kupuna Program:

Our kupuna program is nothing short of fantastic! I benefit in numerous ways from this program.

First, I cannot afford many services. The kupuna program offers what I need for FREE!

I get haircuts, massages, and home/yard services as well as opportunities to partake in exercise programs, activities, and games.

I am very grateful for the help I receive from their programs.

Arabella Ark
2376 Kam V Hwy
Kaunakakai 96748

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Letter of Support Molokai Kupuna Program

1 message

Jeanne Lindquist <molokaijeanne@gmail.com>
To: Molokai Rural Health <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 9:56 AM

April 9, 2026

Jeanne Lindquist
PO Box 1299
64 Ke Ala Oluolu Way
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Aloha Mayor Bissen & The Maui County Budget Committee,

I have been utilizing the Molokai Rural Health Community Kupuna Program for over two years. I am so thankful and appreciative of the services that have been offered. All of the staff are so professional, helpful and friendly. My retirement and well being has definitely been enriched. I live alone so these classes and services have given me the opportunity to socialize, learn new skills and improve and take care of my health.

I have benefitted from the therapeutic massages just this week. I had been suffering from low back pain and found relief from the knowledgeable massage therapist. I have also utilized the services of Dr Pitt's podiatry clinics. I love the card making and sewing classes as I am an avid crafter. These instructors give of their time for free and provide many free materials. What a blessing to have their expertise and help!

The haircuts offered by Shyla are a much needed service on Molokai. We have very few options to get a haircut, it has been a huge help to me. I have also used the yard service, attended bingo and received " Food Boxes" thanks to donations by Sustainable Molokai. Each and every one of these services has improved my life.

I attended a Hawaiian Herb class and participated on a regular basis in an online yoga and stretching class that I miss very much as it is no longer offered. It gave me a time & place to do much needed gentle exercise for my chronic back pain.

I thank you for funding this essential program in the past and ask that you do so again. Mahalo,

Jeanne Lindquist

Sent from my iPad

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Re: Letter

Bobbie Terlaje <bobbiem62@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 7, 2026 at 7:45 PM

April 7, 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen

Kaunakakai, HI. 96748

Aloha Mr. Mayor,

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of appreciation for all the services the Molokai Rural Health Community Association is providing the people in our community.

I am a frequent users of this program. I continuously get haircuts because there is no other hairdresser on island. Dr Pitt comes from Oahu and takes care of our feet and toenails. Lomilomi is always perfectly done by the friendliest masseuse on island. Kuulei has also set up eye exams with the Eye Place in Kaunakakai.

There are so many other services most important to me right now. I take hula that helps me to exercise by using my arms, legs and memory of historical Hawaiian poems written by former poets. I also appreciate how our Hula Kumu teaches the principal of the Hula dances.

I also take other classes provided by the Molokai Rural Health community Association such as Lauhala, card making, and Leihulu - these classes help me to be creative from the instructions of the artists. I think that most importantly these classes gets me out in the community and out of the house to join other ladies who are just as enthusiastic as me with what we created together. Most recently, a water aerobics classes was just included that made me happy it's available at the county pool. A much needed exercise to the Kupunas.

For me the staff were there to help when I needed help. I had so many questions and concerns about social security and Medicare and appreciated that Kuulei found representatives to assist me, personally. Today everything is online. Oh, it's so hard if you're not really good on the computer like me.

Kuulei and her staff were there to assist me in person, one on one. They made it so easy and not intimidating like other places. When Kuulei did not have the answers, she told me, no worry, Aunty, I going find out for you. And she really does find out and get back to me. That type of services does not exist today. The Molokai Rural Health Community Association provide all of that and is always asking us, the community, what more can we do for you?

Kuulei Arce and her staff are professionals who performs their services with the true Aloha Spirit. I hope you can keep us on your budget for years to come. The kupunas need these services but cannot afford to have them on their monthly set budget. I also want to add that if these services are not provided, I would become sedentary in my own home. These programs help me to get out to communicate with other Kupunas.

Mahalo nui loa,

Bobbie Terlaje

[Quoted text hidden]

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 8, 2026

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of the Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Program over the past few years. The services provided have been immensely beneficial to my husband and I, and I would like to share my experiences with you.

The Eye Place, haircuts, lomi lomi massages, podiatry visits, stretch classes, and drive-thru dinners with gift certificates, along with the Advance Directives clinic, are amongst the many services that have significantly contributed to the wellbeing of seniors on Molokai, including myself. As hair salons are non-existent on Molokai, having access to haircuts here is a tremendous advantage, sparing us the expensive trips off-island. Stop and think about it if you had to go off island just to get a haircut. Not easy or affordable! The lomi lomi massage is indispensable in managing my chronic back pain, thereby allowing me to maintain independence. The stretch class keeps my muscles and joints agile, preventing unnecessary discomfort. Moreover, when there was a drive-thru dinner, it provided a delightful respite from the daily cooking and cleaning, while the gift certificates were instrumental in extending our grocery budget (it would be nice to see that return since our groceries and gas are much higher on Molokai than it is on Maui).

The Advance Directives clinic we took in the past has empowered my husband and I to make crucial decisions about our future with confidence. The dedicated staff running the program do a remarkable job delivering these services. Undoubtedly, everyone involved observes a positive impact on the quality of life for Molokai's seniors.

The Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Programs has been an invaluable resource for our underserved island community, and we sincerely hope you will continue to support it going forward. With the recent impact of the flooding here, we need it more than ever. Without these services, our quality of life has been greatly impacted in a negative way because we do not have these services otherwise. For the seniors that live on the island of Maui, they have access to all of these services whereas, we do not. Please continue to support the Molokai Ohana by funding the Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Programs. Please consider expanding it too because we do need it more than ever!

Warm regards,
Paula Scott
pmondoy@gmail.com

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



IMPORTANT REQUESTS

Sheldeen Takeo <sheldeen@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 8, 2026 at 8:35 AM

Hi Kuulei, please add the following to the letters of support. Thank you.

I choose to live on Molokai, it is my home. As I age I revel in being removed from the hustle and bustle of city life, but when challenges with airlines change that revelry to feelings of isolation, the Kupuna program provides respite from that. The activities are wonderful and provide services to me that would not be available otherwise, such as haircuts, yard cleaning, flex fit sessions, and iphone "secrets". But more importantly, those activities give me opportunities to connect with others my age, with the same worries, joys, and fears. Please find some way to continue to fund the program. It provides so much toward the well-being of us "old folks."

Sheldeen Takeo

[Quoted text hidden]

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

IMPORTANT REQUESTS

Sonya Yuen <hhomolokai@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Sonya Yuen <hhomolokai@yahoo.com>
To: kupunaprogram@gmail.com

Tue, Apr 7, 2026 at 5:53 PM

Aloha Maui County Mayor,

My name is Rachelle IngKupau and I am a kupuna who have and still use this program that allows me to continue living independently. I have used programs such as Yard Cleaning and my worker is Koni who is a very caring individual who takes pride in his service. Without this program I definitely would not be able to maintain my yard and most likely I would have lived in a jungle with tall grass, weeds, and a trashed yard that would put my life in danger. I live on a fixed income and lucky no dependents but limited in available funds. If you are to check on Molokai's cost of gas it's over \$7.00's and I don't see the price decreasing or making it affordable. Due to my limited funds, I try to drive once a month to pay for bills, banking, grocery shopping, post office, doctors, etc. If I was to travel more than 3x's a month I would have to cut back on my payment towards electricity or water and foods. I do travel off island for dentist and specialist and again the cost of airfare is expensive to the point that I travel lucky 3x's in the year. Living here is very expensive but I try to make due the best way I know. My mobility is also limited so I try to care for myself the best I know how. Yes, I do go without or limit myself but that's the only way I can survive on Molokai. I don't want to move and I know this program is a needed program for me and all the other Kupunas that use it. If possible Molokai Kupunas would continue thriving if this program continues. If you need to contact me my number is 808 6589232 or my email is hhomolokai@yahoo.com. Feel free to contact me and I would be more than happy to speak to you in person via phone or in person and I can adjust my funds if needs. Mahalo for your time and energy in hearing me out.

Aloha,
Mrs. Rachelle IngKupau
PO Box 194
Kualapuu, HI 96757-0194

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)
[Quoted text hidden]

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



NEED KOKUA

Perry Buchalter <psbuchalter@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 8, 2026 at 4:51 AM

Here's a copy of what I sent. I hope I expressed it correctly.

Honorable Mayor Bisson,
I am writing on behalf of the funding of the Molokai Kupuna Program and MRHCA.
Since I retired from teaching art and digital media at Molokai High School I have been teaching painting with Kupuna for the MRHCA program.
The Kupuna are fun to work with and I love seeing them light up at the success they feel at the end of a session. Molokai is lacking many of the activities and opportunities that Maui and the other islands offer so this program and the variety of opportunities that it offers is a vital outlet for our Kupuna.
I understand that the MRHCA has not been funded for the next budget cycle and I pray that this will be reconsidered.

On a side note, Wendy (Bisson) Espaniola is my sister in law. My wife and I were inspiration for her entering the teaching profession. We live a few houses away and are very close. We are supporters of your campaign and appreciate all that you do for Maui County.

If it is in your power, please support the MRHCA program on Molokai. The loss of the program would have a detrimental impact on our small island.

With respect,

Perry S. Buchalter,
BA, Retired NBCT
www.perryandpinky.com
"Art is life, life is art; find your medium and create your masterpiece."

Perry S. Buchalter,
BA, Retired NBCT
www.perryandpinky.com
"Art is life, life is art; find your medium and create your masterpiece."
(Quoted text hidden)

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEN MEETING ON 4/13/26

✉ **Maria Watanabe to Kupuna Program**
Support Letters Needed

Maria Watanabe:

April 9, 2026 at
2:00pm

Dear Mayor

We sincerely hope you will continue to support the Kapuni programme here on Molokai. As a Kupuna, the program helps fulfill my everyday needs for support and well-being. It is a great help to all of us here on Molokai and the staff do a wonderful

PLEASE SUPPORT THE PROGRAMME

Sincerely

Maria Watansbe

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr
Mayor of Maui County
200 S. High Street
Kalana O Maui Bldg, 9th Floor
Wailuku, HI. 96793

Dear Mayor Bissen, Aloha!

My name is Pualani S. Akaka, kupuna resident of Molokai, born in Kahului 1948. I am writing to commend to you the Kupuna Services Program that Molokai Rural Health Community Association is administering, and I am asking respectfully to please restore this program to the 2027 budget.

I am a grateful recipient of the Kupuna Services. During this fiscal year, I received lomilomi services due to my diagnosis of both arthritis and scoliosis. I received fresh produce, and yard service that is so, so appreciated. The care and support are given with skill, kindness and dignity.

Thank you, Mayor Bissen, Maui County Council and all who have helped to maintain these vital services. Ku'ulei Arce and her team are skilled, respectful, and tenacious in ensuring our program is carried out as intended. They call us, know us by name, and implement what they know is most needed, most fairly. These services allow me to do the best I can to be a helpful part of our Molokai community.

I am truly grateful and hope this unique care is able to continue for the kupuna on Molokai. Please, please restore this much needed program when so much is being taken away from vulnerable folks and costs are rising beyond human understanding.

Me ka ha`aha`a,

Pualani S. Akaka

Pualani Akaka
(808) 567-6510
PO Box 31
Kualapu`u, Molokai 96757

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Dear Honorable Mr. Mayor Bissen,

We want to thank you so much for funding the Kupuna program on Molokai. It is a great success that we have been able to utilize many times in the last few years.

Dr. Pitt is a Godsend, taking good care of our ageing feet and referring some of us when necessary to the Nail Bar for more professional care.

Your help with the eye doctor is a big deal that also helps us pay our bills, thank you!

We have taken the computer class as well. It is very informative for us older folks that were not brought up with these devices and still have a lot to learn about them, once again thank you so much!

Lomilomi is very beneficial in these troubled and trying times, it helps to relieve our pain and discomfort in our muscles and bones and the stress associated with ageing. Once again thank you!

The help with Social Security and Medicare is priceless. Once again thank you !

Stretching exercises are very helpful for staying fit and limber as well.

Finally, we are blessed with the leadership and professionalism of Kuulei Arce and staff. The spotlessly clean and comfortable facility makes it very nice to be there as well.

We are hoping you can continue to support our community by supporting our kupuna with new funding for the future.

Mahalo nui loa,

Scot & Joy Schafer

molokai
RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/13/2



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Supporting kupuna program

1 message

Iwalani Kadowaki <ivkadowaki1949@gmail.com>
To: kupunaprogram@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 2:21 PM

Aloha Mayor Bissen

May this letter find you in the best of health.

My name is Iwalani Kadowaki, I am a participant of the kupuna program on Molokai.

I requesting your support in keeping kupuna activities alive on Molokai.

Personally the kupuna program has kept me involved in knowing what's happening for us kupunas'.

Kindly, keep this kupuna program ongoing. The program has kept me knowledgeable of what's happening on Molokai.

Thank you for your service in caring for us kupunas.

God Bless you!

My ALOHA,

Iwalani Kadowaki

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Continue of Kupuna Program

1 message

Fay Pacheco <faypacheco@yahoo.com>
To: Kuulei Mrhca <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 4:01 PM

My name is Fay Pacheco and I'm 84 years old.

I'm writing in regards of expressing my gratitude towards the Kupuna Programs. I cannot say enough how great and indispensable the programs are to us "old folks" are. Aside from the help we experience with little or no cost at all the camaraderie and sharing verbal with each other is valuable.

Currently I love the massage, cocos & cracker and hair cuts programs.

I humbly ask for your consideration in funding these wonderful programs. Kuulei is also the "bestest"

Mahalo,
Fay Pacheco

RECEIVED AT molo kai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



2027-2028 Federal Funds for Molokai Rural Health Community Association

1 message

Dawn N <molokaigurl553@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>
Cc: Gwendolyn Arce <gwendolynarce@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 1:44 PM

Mayor Bissen
County of Maui

Aloha Mayor Bissen:

This letter is written by Ken and Dawn Nakayama of Kaunakakai, Molokai. We are writing in behalf of Molokai Rural Health Community Association, which continues to serve our kūpuna community on Molokai.

We respectfully request the continuation of federal funds administered through the County of Maui that support essential services for our elderly residents, which both my husband and I benefit from.

These programs provide critical care and assistance that many of our kūpunas would otherwise go without. Due to the limited availability of businesses and services on Moloka'i, offerings such as Haircuts (No Salons), Podiatry Care (Dr comes from Oahu), Foot Care, Lomi Lomi, as well as assistance with yard work specifically lawning/weeding and house cleaning, are not easily accessible. For many of our Seniors, these are not luxuries, but necessities that support our health, dignity, and ability to remain grateful, happy and safe in our homes and live independently as we can.

These programs enhance the quality of life and provide much-needed support for families who are doing their best to care for their Kupunas.

Various educational and fun activities such as learning to use our Cell Phones, iPads, Exercise, Games, Healthcare, Social Security, Medicare, assisting in scheduling appointments, etc. are very much appreciated.

The use of the Kupuna House where services are rendered are safe, comfortable and convenient. The staff are friendly, helpful and cordial and so willing to assist us in our needs. We are so grateful for them.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration in funding services for the needs of our Kupunas on Molokai.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Ken and Dawn Nakayama
POB 814
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

808-285-9726

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Support our Kupuna Program!

1 message

Nichollette Kellum <alohanicky@gmail.com>
To: "Kuulei Arce, MRHCA" <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 2:05 PM

Aloha Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr,

I'm asking you to support keeping our much needed Kupuna Program here on Moloka'i alive and well! Our Kupuna Program is an integral part of our Community and a viable necessity for allot of us! With so many cuts to several programs please let not our Kupuna Program be one of them! Mahalo Mayor Bissen for your support on this matter as allot of us have supported you in the past and will continue to do so in the future! God Bless and keep you vibrant, healthy and safe!

*Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,
Nicky Kellum*

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

FUNDING

1 message

William Prince <wmcprince@gmail.com>
To: kupunaprogram@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 3:19 PM

CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF OUR MOLOKAI RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR 2027. TO MY UNDERSTANDING FUNDING FOR THIS VALUABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCE HAS ENDED.

AS A MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY I'VE HAD THE HONOR TO BE SERVED IN MANY WAYS BY THE KAPUNA PROGRAM OF WHICH I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR. TO ME IT IS A VERY POSITIVE PROGRAM OF PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE.

PLEASE KEEP OUR PROGRAM GOING, THE RETURNS ON THE FUNDING IS WAY MORE THAN WHAT'S SEEN ON THE MONETARY SIDE.

OUR QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH THE KAPUNA PROGRAM IS GREATLY ENHANCED, AND IS WAY WORTH IT.

THANKYOU AND MAHALO

RETIRED STATE OF HAWAII DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION, AIRPORTS FIRE RESCUE MOLOKAI Wm C PRINCE

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26

Dee Ann Dudoit-Doo
290 Kaiwi Street
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

April 9, 2026

Dear Mayor Bissen and the Council Members,

My Name is Dee Ann Dudoit-Doo, And I'm a caregiver for my mother Marian Doo. I'd like to take this time to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for funding The Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Program. This funding has provided many services for my Kupuna mother to receive and enjoy.

For example: my mother has ingrown toenails and has been able to be seen by Dr. Pitt (The Podiatrist) several times to have her very bad ingrown toenails cut, trimmed, and cleaned, thus having her feet feel great while walking, instead of having agonizing pain from the nail pinching her toes.

She also got to be seen by the lomi lomi mistress, and have her body stretched and massaged to where she fell asleep. Feeling like a brand new person leaving the office.

There are many, many more valuable services they offer for her yet to receive and enjoy.

So with that being said, I would like to please ask for your generous funding to continue throughout the next following years, so that our Kupuna program may continue. Kuulei Arce and her team does a fantastic job at providing services for our Kupuna in our community to receive and enjoy.

Me Ke Aloha Pumahana,
Dee Ann Dudoit-Doo

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26

Honorable Mayor Bissen

County of Maui

Dear Mayor,

These are truly the times that try man's souls with the aftermath of Lahaina Fire and the Flood Storms that surpass the millions, if not billions, of dollars which will dip into the budget with which we are faced.

However, as I reflect, I'm eternally grateful for the Kupuna services provided here on Molokai. I've learned to be content with the socialization, education and health/wellness programs afforded us, Kupuna, here on 'Aina Momona.

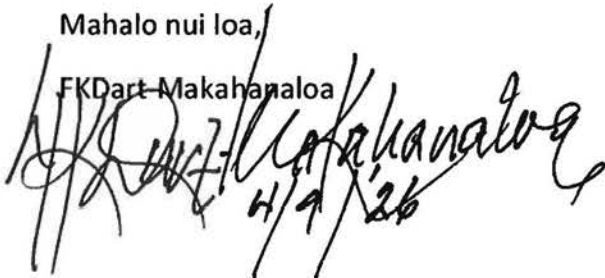
Therefore, at this critical time, I request that every "dollar" matters and helps for our Kupuna program to continue and thrive.

Too, the staff has been diligently serving us, Kupuna, to the best of their ability to assist the Kupuna for which I'm grateful.

Your consideration regarding funding is greatly appreciated for our welfare, 2027.

Mahalo nui loa,

FKDart-Makahanaaloa



Handwritten signature of FKDart-Makahanaaloa, dated 4/9/26.

RECEIVED AT Molokai B FEN MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank You and the County of Maui for such great service that you folks have help provide and kindly ask that you folks continue to provide for our Kupuna Program and as well as our Molokai Community.

The Kupuna program here on Molokai provides such great services. We are very grateful and appreciative of this great program. It gives our homebound Kupunas an opportunity to come out of their comfort zone to attend Massage, Podiatry Services, Hair cuts etc. and just being out of their homes to meet old and new friends, and keep them active and healthy through exercises, music, arts, and many other great opportunities.

I Kindly ask that The County of Maui continue to support and fund our Kupuna Program

Mahalo,

Frank I Kaahanui JR.

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 9, 2026

Aloha,

I would like to express my appreciation for funding Molokai Community Health Association for the past several years. It has been a great asset for our kupuna providing unduplicated services for those of us that take advantage of the services they provide.

The Book of Life has been a great idea to help us organize important documents keeping things readily available for myself and my ohana to access easily. Having people to help us navigate and better understand the often complicated and frustrating Medicare and Social Security system has been a great asset. They have provided much needed services from technical support to Health and wellness programs. It's a well rounded program meeting our needs that we aren't able to receive elsewhere on Moloka'i.

The staff is friendly, helpful, informative and always supportive.

Please continue to provide funding for this program that is so greatly need..

Mahalo Nui,

Kalola Kaulili

1360 Kamehameha v Hwy

Kaunakakai, HI 96748



RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha e Mayor Bissen and Council Members,

Mahalo for all the work and services provided to us kupuna on Moloka'i.

The program provides needed services to us as elderly Moloka'i residents with needs that is not available to us otherwise. Foot care for type2 Diabetes, eye care, fresh food bags and other services to homebound recipients with access to further health care. Services are difficult to access as we are limited to resources offered to Moloka'i.

Please consider us Kupuna in our golden years by continuing the services to us through the Moloka'i Rural Health Community Program. It's our kahua ola pono!

Mahalo,

'Opu'ulani Albino

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFEF MEETING ON 4/13/24

Aloha Mayor Bissen and Council Members,

April 10, 2026

I am writing in support of the Molokai Rural Health Association Kupuna Program.

This valuable program has been so helpful to the Kupuna on our beautiful Island. The services they provide are so important not only to our physical health but our mental health as well.

I especially find the monthly Lomi-Lomi beneficial. I suffer from a shoulder injury, and the Lomi-Lomi always helps alleviate the pain and gives me much improved mobility and range of motion.

I can't complete this letter without mentioning the staff. Absolutely incredible!! They are so sincere, kind and helpful. They often check in with my wife and I to make sure we are doing well. They make you feel welcome and comfortable the minute you arrive for your appt. I humbly request that you provide continued funding for this valuable program.

Mahalo, Dan Reed

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 13, 2026

To: **Maui County Councilmembers**

Subject: **FY 2027 Budget - Molokai Rural Health Community Association
(MRHCA) Kupuna Program**

Aloha,

MRHCA Kupuna Program is crucial to continue serving our elderly population on Molokai.

Please support the inclusion of MRHCA Kupuna Program to Maui County's FY 2027 budget. We recognize the value of the Kupuna Program because of its help to seniors remain independent while receiving proper care. Your support of funding resources helps protect the dignity, health and quality of life of na kupuna (elders) of Molokai while strengthening our rural landscape. Ensuring kupuna (elderly) care resources are available is not only compassionate – it is necessary for the well-being and safety of some of the most vulnerable members of our island.

The Kupuna Program makes a powerful impact on emotional, mental, and social well-being by helping kupuna (elderly) feel supported, connected and valued in their home island.

Mahalo for your support to the above-mentioned subject matter.

Mahalo,
Stacy Helm Crivello

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 9, 2026

To: Mayor Richard Bissen
Maui County Mayor

Subject: Letter of Support for Kupuna Program

I am writing this letter on behalf of my dad, the late Juan Trinidad, and my mother, Salvacion Trinidad, of Kalohi Street, Kaunakakai. My dad passed away in 2024 at the age of 96. My mom is 91 and still lives independently in her home. Molokai does not have a senior living facility, nor does it have an abundant resource of community based care homes. In fact, I would say there are almost none to limited resources for our kupuna.

That is why the Kupuna Program is a GEM in plain sight, and is worthy of continued funding from Maui County. We know, even in these difficult times, if there is one thing that Maui County should continue to fund is the Kupuna Care program. Both of my parents used the services of the Kupuna program--yard service, foot care, massages, advocacy, and simple services that make waning years of our elderly easier to navigate. The Kupuna Program is an oasis of services and coordination for Kupuna. Both of my parents have benefited from this program. I humbly ask that you continue to fund the Kupuna program for the most vulnerable citizens in our community.

Mahalo for your time



Lydia Trinidad
Resident
Kaunakakai

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 9, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Hopefully the Kupuna Program will continue to be funded in years to come. Why?

- As an 82 yr. old, the program has provided many opportunities for me to participate in activities like pickleball, sewing, BINGO, massages over the last few years.
- Having a good haircut can make me feel better about the way I look as an older person and builds confidence to interact with others.
- Part of staying mentally and physically healthy is to keep moving and continue to learn new things to stimulate and continue to form new brain cells.
- Providing these programs allows us to interact with others and the socialization is so healthy; otherwise it's easy to be at home alone with one's thoughts and lonely.
- Knowing that others are depending on our attendance helps to get motivation to keep moving and participate.
- The program helps to provide quality of life for an older kupuna person. So many live on a fixed income and with the cost of everything, its not possible to participate in the extra activities if they had to pay the full amount.

Kuulei and her staff are so kind, caring, thoughtful and so very helpful. Molokai has a community who cares about their kupuna. Activities and/or services for senior citizens are none to limited.

With gratitude,
Barbara L. Helm
P.O. Box 56
Ho'olehua, HI 96729
808-336-0261

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BPED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 9, 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen Jr.
Molokai 2027-2028 Budget Hearing

Re: Molokai Rural Health Community Association - MRHCA

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

First and foremost, I strongly support the County of Maui including Molokai Rural Health Community Association, commonly referred to here on Molokai as the Kupuna Program, in the 2027-2028 County budget. Unfortunately, at this time there has been no funding allocated.

I recently turned 70 years young. Wow, time flies! When preparing for retirement I could not imagine how different life would become. Not just my own physical and financial needs, but also changes in our community, the weather, and the impacts of our country's involvement in worldwide issues. To be frank, no amount of planning covers the increased costs and reduction to services that our community is experiencing.

The kupuna program listens. They respond. And the program is the only place on Molokai that has been a resource center for senior citizens. Maui County Office of Aging provides very specific services and does not have the flexibility to do what the Kupuna program is capable of doing. I suggest the County look to include MRHCA as a contracted provider. Give this group the credit they deserve to continue providing seniors much needed assistance to navigate this turbulent times and the aging population.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of this request.

Safe travels,

Debra Mapel
10331 Kamehameha V Hwy
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
808.658.0885

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 9, 2026

Mayor Bissen and Council Members,

Thank you for our Kupuna Program on the island of Molokai. We are grateful for the many services that the County of Maui has provided for us. We are grateful for all that you do.

We have benefited from the massage services as it has improved my balance and well being. We're sure many others have benefited from this and other services. We are looking into using other health benefits such as the eye clinic subsidy. We look forward to using the many other services that this program offers. Looking forward to the water aerobics.

As you are well aware of the limited emergency medical facilities that Molokai has, it is imperative that we keep as healthy as possible. The cost of traveling to the outer island for medical service is extremely high. We would like to see some assistance in reducing the costs of traveling. Any help would be appreciated.

Thank you for the service and funding for the past years, we hope that you will extend these services. We are also very thankful to Kuulei Arce, the Program Coordinator and her staff.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan & Teresa Fukuda

Ryan and Teresa Fukuda

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Mayor Bissen and Council Members,

April 10, 2026

Thank you so much for your support of the kupuna program! It has become more important to me as time goes by. I was so touched after our last storm with terrible road flooding that someone from the program called to see how I was doing and if I needed anything. What a wonderful feeling after being unable to leave home for several days. To know that someone cares!

I enjoy several of the services such as a-free haircut every couple of months. There is nowhere else currently to get a haircut. Also to have an occasional massage. That helps me to keep moving and eliminate the pain that comes with aging. There are several programs that are social which are so important for older people. It's easy to become isolated and withdrawn. These programs get us into the community and provide an opportunity to spend time with other people.

I humbly ask that you consider funding this program that is so important to so many.

Ellen Reed

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEN MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Mr Mayor Bissen and Councilmembers,

Aloha,

I am writing this letter in strong support of the Molokai Rural Health Community Association (MRHCA) Kupuna Program.

After retiring from 47 years of employment, my husband—a Military Veteran—and I returned home to Molokai in September 2025 to begin our retirement. Since then, we have had the opportunity to participate in the Kupuna Program and experience firsthand the many services and activities it provides for both us and the greater community.

As lifelong residents and members of the Molokai High School Class of 1974, many of our classmates encouraged us to sign up when we returned home. They spoke highly of the program, sharing how the classes and services have enriched their lives during their retirement years.

Without hesitation, we signed up—and within a week, we received a call welcoming us as active members. We were both excited and curious to get started.

Since joining in September 2025, we have witnessed firsthand how meaningful and impactful this program is. It has given our kupuna something to look forward to—opportunities to stay active, connected, and engaged. For many of us, this is a time we have long waited for—to finally enjoy the fruits of our labor and the simple luxuries of retirement—and this program helps make that possible.

With great pride, I humbly ask that you continue funding for this amazing program.

Mahalo nui,

Joy and John Poaha

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Mayor Bissen and Members of the Maui County Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts.

As recent storms have demonstrated, communities will come together, to provide support for each other in emergencies. We also need strong communities, to address the problems facing us, long term. We need to support community building, to keep its members connected, to keep them healthy, to keep them resilient.

A few years ago, in 2023, the Surgeon General issued an advisory on our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation. This report includes the following paragraph,

"Loneliness is far more than just a bad feeling—it harms both individual and societal health. It is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, depression, anxiety, and premature death. The mortality impact of being socially disconnected is similar to that caused by smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day, and even greater than that associated with obesity and physical inactivity. And the harmful consequences of a society that lacks social connection can be felt in our schools, workplaces, and civic organizations, where performance, productivity, and engagement are diminished."

The Molokai Rural Health Community Association helps to combat loneliness, by strengthening the social connections in our community, especially for our kupuna.

Leading a group of kupuna in tai chi, I have seen how it has helped with improving balance, strength and flexibility, and with social connections as well.

We realize that Maui County has a lot of needs to fill and that resources are limited. But we believe that supporting community building will have positive long term consequences, improving the health of the community and its ability face future challenges.

We would like to request financial support for our Association to continue our community building activities.

Sincerely,



Allen Ashitomi, Kaunakakai, Molokai

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFD MEETING ON 4/13/26

Dear Mr. Mayor,

April 10, 2026

This is a support letter for the 2027 Budget to include the Molokai Rural Health Community Assoc and their widespread services for our Kupuna. Molokai needs your attention and financial funding for our well-being.

The MRCHA Kupuna Program is an essential link to services that are truly survival tools. The different programs encompass a wide range of information for staying in a proactive position to maintain individual independence, confidence and necessary networking for our small community to do its best to foster our different needs with a central access point.

Kuulei and her professional staff have amassed diverse programs which are inclusive of our older population's needs. I personally have benefited from the lomi practitioners, painting classes, kupuna food boxes and assorted newsletters of many other services that I have not yet utilized. Please help us!

Aloha,

Carol Klein

RECEIVED AT Molokai
B FED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Rubin V Sambajon
P.O. Box 349
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

4-9-2026

Dear Honorable Mayor Bissen and Council Members,

I am writing this letter to thank you for your support of the Kupuna program here in Molokai. The computer class that I always look forward to attending is very helpful to me. The teacher is very patient with us Kupuna and is well versed in the Chromes OS, Windows OS, Apple IOS and Android operating systems. Using a computer can be very stressful and discouraging if you're a kupuna living alone. Fortunately, I have my wife. For the lone kupuna, for this reason alone, a computer class is needed.

I also appreciate the massage that we receive when available. At age 70 after mowing my lawn and weed whacking I have stiff neck and shoulder pain and a real bad lower back pain. It's hard getting in bed and sleeping and hard getting out of bed the next morning after doing my yard chores. The massage helps relieve my physical and mental tensions and body pain.

The twice a week Tai Chi classes do wonders for me. It helps me with pain relief of my back and joints, keeping my balance in addition to the mental exercise of remembering the movement and forms.

Please continue to support our Molokai Kupuna program. We do need it.

Thank you again for all that you have been doing for us and for what you will be doing for us in the future.

Sincerely,



Rubin V. Sambajon

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Cameron Hiro, PO Box 414, Hoolehua, HI 96729

808-658-0433/molokaikahu@gmail.com

04/10/26

Maui County Budget Committee

Dear Members of the Maui County Budget Committee,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the Molokai Rural Health Community Association's Kupuna Program. As a lifelong resident of Molokai and a proud fourth-generation homesteader in Hoolehua, I understand the importance of caring for our Kupuna, our beloved seniors who embody the wisdom and spirit of our culture.

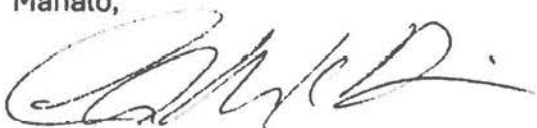
The Kupuna Program has provided invaluable services that directly benefit our senior community. Personally, my 85-year-old mother has received essential assistance, including yard care and foot care, which have made a significant difference in her quality of life. Beyond these services, the Kupuna Program offers a wide range of activities that foster social engagement and well-being, including basic computer training, haircuts, crafts, lomilomi, and painting, all available at little or no cost. These offerings not only support physical health but also nourish the spirit of our seniors, helping them to stay active and connected.

As we approach the evaluation of funding priorities, I urge you to recognize the essential nature of this program. Caring for our Kupuna is not just a service; it is a cultural obligation that reflects our values as a community. Budgeting for the Kupuna Program is not negotiable; it is a commitment we must uphold. Our Kupuna have given so much to us, and it is our responsibility to ensure their well-being and dignity in their golden years.

I am Cameron Hiro, an operations manager at Hawaii Kai Salts, a poultry farm owner at Kamakani Farms (who have donated eggs to this program too), and the pastor of Heart of Aloha Church. I am also married to Jacqueline Hiro, a dedicated relationship banker at Bank of Hawaii for over 20 years. We both believe deeply in the importance of supporting our Keiki and Kupuna, and I stand firmly in my conviction that the Kupuna Program deserves continued funding.

Mahalo for considering this critical program in your budget deliberations. I hope you will take our Kupuna's needs to heart and ensure that the Molokai Rural Health Community Association's Kupuna Program remains funded and accessible for our seniors.

Mahalo,



Cameron Hiro

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Mayor Bisson,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude to you and the County of Maui for the excellent services we have received through the Molokai Kupuna Program.

The Administrator and the wonderful staff of the Molokai Kupuna Services have been innovative in providing the needs of so many seniors.

I want to name just a few of the services that I have benefited from although I have used several others.

I am an 84 year old widow and the program has been a God-send in my life. I live alone on my Hawaiian Homestead. I am so grateful to be able to make living alone manageable partly because of the yard service and housekeeping services made available to me. I need help with these difficult chores and they are not readily available.

The ongoing Covid epidemic gave birth to providing haircuts so badly needed. (2-3 hair dressers had to close their shop because of personal injuries) Having a haircut did so much for my well-being and I heard this echoed many times over by others. Having hair 4-5 inches longer than you are used too can very depressing.

I have asthma and was able to use a Hawaiian remedy thanks to other seniors who went to La'au classes and shared their knowledge and product. I am now very comfortable and virtually free of my respiratory difficulties. An ample supply was given to me and I have been able to share it with others!

At my age, I took the Computer classes! We are pretty much forced to go online these days. Chrome notebooks were provided at a discounted price if we didn't already have one. Normally, I would have felt intimidated...not so; I was with my peers! The instructor was excellent. It was challenging but we learned to use the computer in so many innovated ways and beneficial ways! Dementia.....not for a while.

Finally, it's important that I mention the many opportunities the program provided for social interaction. I had so much fun and got to visit my many friends. We shared our happiness and health challenges. We, on Molokai "go without" many times but with this wonderful Molokai Kupuna Program many of us would share weekly about living our senior life...looking forward To the next event....looking forward to the next day!

Molokai Kupuna Program hana hou!

My heartfelt mahalo,

Patricia Leinaala Tancayo

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 10, 2026

To Mayor

I am writing in support of the Kupuna program on Molokai. This program has involved many people, and has had a very positive impact. As a kupuna myself, I have greatly benefitted from their lomilomi services, and Medicare consultations. There are so many other services that I'm definitely certain we will eventually be in need of. For my wife and I, they were there to help when we needed help. We had so many questions and concerns about social security and Medicare and Kulei found representatives to assist us, personally. Today everything is online. It's so hard and frustrating because we're not really good on the computer.

Kulei and her staff were there to assist us in person, one on one. They made us feel welcomed. They made it so easy and not intimidating like other places. They are professionals who perform their services with the true Aloha spirit. We hope you can keep us on your budget for years to come. The kupuna need these services but cannot afford to have them on their monthly fixed income.

Mahalo nui loa

Joey Joao
✓ JOEY JOAO

RECEIVED AT Molokai B FED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Lawrence K. Lasua

4/9/26

P.O. Box 544

Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Re: Letter to Mayor Richard Bissen

Dear Mayor Richardd Bissen,

Thank you for supporting our Kupuna Program that have benefited our seniors on the island of Molokai.

I'm a seventy-five year old senior that uses the kupuna program on Molokai Since it began.

I have been taking advantage of the Lomilomi services as well as twice a week attending the Tai Chi exercises and both of these services have been very helpful for me.

I humbly ask you to continue your support for the many senior citizens living on the Friendly Island.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence K. Lasua

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26

JOHN WORDIN
P.O. Box 121
Kualapuu, HI 96757
406-235-0947
wordinji@gmail.com

10 April 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen
County of Maui
Wailukui, HI 96793

Dear Mayor,

My wife died in 2023, and as a result, my income was cut in half, and, as a retiree, I'm on a fixed income. I had to cut expenses. Having access to Molokai Rural Health Community Association helped greatly to have services available at no charge, it was welcome. From time to time, I have received a free meal, and regularly schedule a haircut. I have also taken advantage of the services of Dr. Pitt.

The is a very worthwhile set of programs that benefit a large number of seniors here on the island of Molokai. I highly recommend that the county of Maui continue the program.

Sincerely,


John Wordin

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Bldg Ninth Floor
Wailuku HI 96793

Dear Mr. Mayor Bissen,

This letter is in support of the Molokai Kupuna Program on Molokai, under the Rural Health Program.

The Kupuna program started in July 2021, has increased to 900 plus participants.

Having this Kupuna program is beneficial for the elderly: socially, mentally, and nutritionally.

Our island does not have many resources or even duplication of resources for our seniors. So this program is essential for the very well being of our Kupunas.

Please consider keeping us in your budget.

Aloha,
Lori Kalilikane
PO Box 622
Kunakakai, HI 96748


'Lori'
4/10/26

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BPED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 10, 2026

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Bldg Ninth Floor
Wailuku HI 96793

Dear Mr. Mayor Bissen,

This letter is in support of the Molokai Kupuna Program on Molokai, under the Rural Health Program.

The Kupuna program started in July 2021, has increased to 900 plus participants.

Having this Kupuna program is beneficial for the elderly: socially, mentally, and nutritionally.

Our island does not have many resources or even duplication of resources for our seniors. So this program is essential for the very well being of our Kupunas.

Please consider keeping us in your budget.

Aloha, 
Angelita Naehu
PO Box 242
Kunakakai, HI 96748

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

P. O. Box 558
Kaunakakai, HI. 968

April 9, 2020

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Building, 9th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding of the Molokai Kūpuna Program through the County of Maui Department of Human Resources.

Since its launch in July 2021 through the Office of Economic Development, the program has become an essential resource for our community. It not only created meaningful jobs following the COVID-19 pandemic, but more importantly, it established a much-needed care and connection for Molokai's kūpuna.

Today, the program serves over 800 registered resident kūpuna aged 65 and older in our geographically isolated community—where an estimated 22-24% of residents lack access to for accessible health, social, and supportive services continues to increase.

The Molokai Kūpuna Program, including 4 paid staff, 10 contracted positions, and 100 volunteers, addresses these needs by offering services and activities that reduce isolation, support individuals, and promote overall well-being. Just as importantly, it fosters opportunities for our kūpuna to stay connected, engaged, and supported within their community.

The program's strength lies in its collaborative approach, working in partnership with community organizations, healthcare providers, and dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and resources to serve our kūpuna.

Continued County funding is critical to sustaining these vital services. The Molokai Kūpuna Program has proven to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our kūpuna, supporting them in place with dignity and connection.

Mahalo for your leadership and ongoing support of this important program on Molokai.

Mahalo,


Judith Mikami

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/20

Cameron Hiro, PO Box 414, Hoolehua, HI 96729
808-658-0433/molokaikahu@gmail.com
04/10/26
Maui County Budget Committee

Dear Members of the Maui County Budget Committee,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the Molokai Rural Health Community Association's Kupuna Program. As a lifelong resident of Molokai and a proud fourth-generation homesteader in Hoolehua, I understand the importance of caring for our Kupuna, our beloved seniors who embody the wisdom and spirit of our culture.

The Kupuna Program has provided invaluable services that directly benefit our senior community. Personally, my 85-year-old mother has received essential assistance, including yard care and foot care, which have made a significant difference in her quality of life. Beyond these services, the Kupuna Program offers a wide range of activities that foster social engagement and well-being, including basic computer training, haircuts, crafts, lomilomi, and painting, all available at little or no cost. These offerings not only support physical health but also nourish the spirit of our seniors, helping them to stay active and connected.

As we approach the evaluation of funding priorities, I urge you to recognize the essential nature of this program. Caring for our Kupuna is not just a service; it is a cultural obligation that reflects our values as a community. Budgeting for the Kupuna Program is not negotiable; it is a commitment we must uphold. Our Kupuna have given so much to us, and it is our responsibility to ensure their well-being and dignity in their golden years.

I am Cameron Hiro, an operations manager at Hawaii Kai Salts, a poultry farm owner at Kamakani Farms (who have donated eggs to this program too), and the pastor of Heart of Aloha Church. I am also married to Jacqueline Hiro, a dedicated relationship banker at Bank of Hawaii for over 20 years. We both believe deeply in the importance of supporting our Keiki and Kupuna, and I stand firmly in my conviction that the Kupuna Program deserves continued funding.

Mahalo for considering this critical program in your budget deliberations. I hope you will take our Kupuna's needs to heart and ensure that the Molokai Rural Health Community Association's Kupuna Program remains funded and accessible for our seniors.

Mahalo,



Cameron Hiro

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Mayor Bisson,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude to you and the County of Maui for the excellent services we have received through the Molokai Kupuna Program.

The Administrator and the wonderful staff of the Molokai Kupuna Services have been innovative in providing the needs of so many seniors.

I want to name just a few of the services that I have benefited from although I have used several others.

I am an 84 year old widow and the program has been a God-send in my life. I live alone on my Hawaiian Homestead. I am so grateful to be able to make living alone manageable partly because of the yard service and housekeeping services made available to me. I need help with these difficult chores and they are not readily available.

The ongoing Covid epidemic gave birth to providing haircuts so badly needed. (2-3 hair dressers had to close their shop because of personal injuries) Having a haircut did so much for my well-being and I heard this echoed many times over by others. Having hair 4-5 inches longer than you are used too can very depressing.

I have asthma and was able to use a Hawaiian remedy thanks to other seniors who went to La'au classes and shared their knowledge and product. I am now very comfortable and virtually free of my respiratory difficulties. An ample supply was given to me and I have been able to share it with others!

At my age, I took the Computer classes! We are pretty much forced to go online these days. Chrome notebooks were provided at a discounted price if we didn't already have one. Normally, I would have felt intimidated...not so; I was with my peers! The instructor was excellent. It was challenging but we learned to use the computer in so many innovated ways and beneficial ways! Dementia.....not for a while.

Finally, it's important that I mention the many opportunities the program provided for social interaction. I had so much fun and got to visit my many friends. We shared our happiness and health challenges. We, on Molokai "go without" many times but with this wonderful Molokai Kupuna Program many of us would share weekly about living our senior life...looking forward To the next event....looking forward to the next day!

Molokai Kupuna Program hana hou!

My heartfelt mahalo,

Patricia Leinaala Tancayo

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 10, 2026

To Mayor

I am writing in support of the Kupuna program on Molokai. This program has involved many people, and has had a very positive impact. As a kupuna myself, I have greatly benefitted from their lomilomi services, and Medicare consultations. There are so many other services that I'm definitely certain we will eventually be in need of. For my wife and I, they were there to help when we needed help. We had so many questions and concerns about social security and Medicare and Kulei found representatives to assist us personally. Today everything is online. It's so hard and frustrating because we're not really good on the computer.

Kulei and her staff were there to assist us in person, one on one. They made us feel welcomed. They made it so easy and not intimidating like other places. They are professionals who perform their services with the true Aloha spirit. We hope you can keep us on your budget for years to come. The kupuna need these services but cannot afford to have them on their monthly fixed income.

Mahalo nui loa

Joey Joao
✓ Joey Joao

RECEIVED AT Molokai
RFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Lawrence K. Lasua

4/9/26

P.O. Box 544

Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Re: Letter to Mayor Richard Bissen

Dear Mayor Richardd Bissen,

Thank you for supporting our Kupuna Program that have benefited our seniors on the island of Molokai.

I'm a seventy-five year old senior that uses the kupuna program on Molokai Since it began.

I have been taking advantage of the Lomilomi services as well as twice a week attending the Tai Chi exercises and both of these services have been very helpful for me.

I humbly ask you to continue your support for the many senior citizens living on the Friendly Island.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence K. Lasua

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

JOHN WORDIN
P.O. Box 121
Kualapuu, HI 96757
406-235-0947
wordinjj@gmail.com

10 April 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen
County of Maui
Wailukui, HI 96793

Dear Mayor,

My wife died in 2023, and as a result, my income was cut in half, and, as a retiree, I'm on a fixed income. I had to cut expenses. Having access to Molokai Rural Health Community Association helped greatly to have services available at no charge, it was welcome. From time to time, I have received a free meal, and regularly schedule a haircut. I have also taken advantage of the services of Dr. Pitt.

The is a very worthwhile set of programs that benefit a large number of seniors here on the island of Molokai. I highly recommend that the county of Maui continue the program.

Sincerely,


John Wordin

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Bldg Ninth Floor
Wailuku HI 96793

Dear Mr. Mayor Bissen,

This letter is in support of the Molokai Kupuna Program on Molokai, under the Rural Health Program.

The Kupuna program started in July 2021, has increased to 900 plus participants.

Having this Kupuna program is beneficial for the elderly: socially, mentally, and nutritionally.

Our island does not have many resources or even duplication of resources for our seniors. So this program is essential for the very well being of our Kupunas.

Please consider keeping us in your budget.

Aloha,
Lori Kalilikane
PO Box 622
Kunakakai, HI 96748


'Lori'
4/10/26

molokai
RECEIVED AT BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26

April 10, 2026

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Bldg Ninth Floor
Wailuku HI 96793

Dear Mr. Mayor Bissen,

This letter is in support of the Molokai Kupuna Program on Molokai, under the Rural Heath Program.

The Kupuna program started in July 2021, has increased to 900 plus participants.

Having this Kupuna program is beneficial for the elderly: socially, mentally, and nutritionally.

Our island does not have many resources or even duplication of resources for our seniors. So this program is essential for the very well being of our Kupunas.

Please consider keeping us in your budget.

Aloha, 
Angelita Naehu
PO Box 242
Kunakakai, HI 96748

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Letter for Budget Hearing

1 message

keri zacher <zacherk@hotmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 10:03 AM

Aloha Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.,

The Kūpuna Program through Molokai Rural Health Community Association offers important resources for Molokai Kūpuna. The Program provides quality professionals who share information related to Medicare, Social Security, Health Insurance and more. They provide individual well-being services like lomi-lomi, foot massage, haircuts and podiatry.

They offer exercise-related programs that encourage Kūpuna to exercise in fun and supportive environments. Other classes also bring Kūpuna together to explore other areas such as computers, sewing and card making. In addition, they have different performance related activities to entertain and engage Kūpuna. Social connections are important as we age and valuable to our mental health.

The staff is incredible. They've gone out of their way to help me so many times. Their positive and caring attitudes make it easy to ask for help. Also, their help during the most recent flooding was greatly appreciated.

The Kūpuna Program is a great asset to our community. I ask you to continue to support what they are doing.

Mahalo nui loa, Keri Zacher

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26

Dear Mayor Bissen,

We are Carl and Theone Puhi of Hoolehua, Molokai.

We are kupuna contacting you regarding the Molokai Rural Health Community Association.

We appreciate that the program was funded for 6 amazing years and are now requesting that you continue funding for 2027-2028. This program offers a variety of services and workshops to enhance healthy living for Molokai's kupuna and we would be very grateful to have continued access to the program's offerings.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Carl and Theone Puhi

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/20

To the Honorable Mayor Michael Victorino

Aloha Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to thank you for all the services the Molokai Rural Health Community Association has provided for the Elderly in our community.

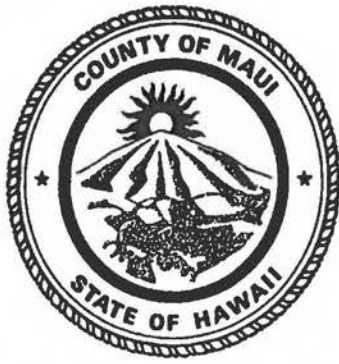
At 72 years old, I am thankful to be one of many beneficiaries of this program. Molokai doesn't have access to many of the services the other islands have and it is often impossible for Kupuna to travel off island to get services. For example, hairdressers, podiatry services, senior classes on health and technology, assistance with social security, etc.

Kuulei and her staff are always willing to answer questions, listen to any of our concerns and act on them if necessary. One of my concerns has been the safety of Kupuna who live alone. They will reach out to the vulnerable and assist them or find agencies that can kokua.

The Molokai Rural Health Community Association supports the elderly by filling those voids. Kuulei Arce and her staff are dedicated to this mission. I hope you can keep them on your budget for years to come. The Kupuna Program here on Molokai really help the elderly enjoy a better quality of life in their later years.

With appreciation,
Crystal Egusa
Kaunakakai, HI
cegusa@gmail.com

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STATE USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: SUE HOWINS

Email Address: _____

Phone: 808

Mailing Address: POB 1156

City/Zip: RKPA 96748

I Represent: Myself

Organization Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc - Molokai

Request/Issue: _____

We are very fortunate to have such a great bus system here on Molokai. The buses go EVERYWHERE whether it's south to Kaunakakai, east to Goods 'n Grinds, north to Kalae, west to Maunaloa or any homestead property between, it is pretty much door to door service. There is also wheelchair access and the drivers are always pleasant and very helpful. All of this for only a dollar donation!

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: MEO TRANS



Letter of support

1 message

Kau Manera <kauimanera@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 8:43 AM

To: "kupunaprogram@gmail.com" <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Aloha Kuulei,

I am in Hilo right now but please print this email as my letter of support for Kupuna program.

Aloha to the members of the Maui County Council,

My name is Deldrine Kau'inohea Kapuni Manera.

I am a lifetime resident of Moloka'i. I also represent Moloka'i on the Maui County Council In Aging.

I have seen Moloka'i go thru so many phases and changes in my 70 years but am so grateful that one thing never altered and that's the aloha that our kama'aina families have for each other. We still recognize each other and with unspoken acknowledgements of each other, we perpetuate the old Hawaiian style of respect and inclusion. We are still here.

The Moloka'i Rural Health Kupuna program started off as a program to support Kupuna during the onset of the COVID era. Realizing its success and need, the county council and then Mayor Victorino did the right thing by continuing funding. Last year's cuts to this program proved harmful to Kupuna as they depend on the podiatrist visits, socializing at the Cocoa and Cracka sessions, education on social security issues, haircuts, Lomi and my favorite, phone reassurances to ask how we doing and what kind help we need. For the isolated Kupuna, that could be a lifeline. Cuts could be detrimental for many of our Kupuna.

We started a small hui of Kupuna dedicated to support the healthcare needs of our elderly on Moloka'i. Our focus is to help the Kupuna who often times fall thru the cracks and eventually are forgotten. We have met several times to better understand how existing resources and agencies on Moloka'i can serve the Kupuna efficiently on our island home and not necessarily duplicate services which I feel poho funding. The goal is to create relationships and a network between agencies, services and resources for a seamless healthcare experience. We need to know who does what in our small community. Kuulei graciously have included our kuleana as part of the Kupuna program as we meet regularly at the office in Kaunakakai.

Please continue funding for our Kupuna program. It is more than a Kupuna program - for many, it is an essential need to live.

Mahalo nui.

Kau'i

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

04/08/2026

Dear Mayor Richard Bissen,

In 2019 I retired from Maui Electric/Hawaiian Electric Company after 23 years in the Molokai power plant as Chief Operator. A year later, as we all experienced, the COVID pandemic hit and we all got isolated with limited if any social interactions.

The Kupuna program administered by Kuulei Arce changed my life in many positive ways. Opportunities through the program got me out of my house and yard, offered me social interaction. I was very isolated until I started participating in the offerings.

I have taken several computer classes, am a participant in the quilting/sewing class, had Dr Pitt check my old feet, took 2 field trips, lomolomi, received wax treatments to help my hand arthritis and regularly have had hair cuts.

These services & classes are vital to my well being as well as many other kupuna. Many residents of our island have been severely impacted with rapidly increasing prices and recent weather events. This Kupuna program offers support to many people who have limited money. Please include funding in your budget.

Sincerely,
Kathy Sears-Tancayo
PO Box 218
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

04/13/2026

Testimony

Adolph Helm: Molokai Kupuna Program Participant
P.O. Box 391
Ho'olehua, HI 96729

RE: Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Program 2027 Budget Request Inclusion

Aloha Mayor Richard Bissen and Maui County Councilmembers,

This letter wishes you well and continued success in your role as Mayor and Councilmembers of Maui County. My name is Adolph Helm and I was born and raised on Molokai. A longtime resident I am also a participant in your acclaimed County supported Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Program.

From a physical and mental health perspective the Molokai Rural Kupuna Program has benefited me as well as many other Kupunas on island. Access to health care and wellbeing opportunities can be very challenging especially to a certain segment (seniors) of the community that is largely underserved. The Molokai Rural Health Kupuna program currently provides health care alternatives typically not found anywhere else on island. The existing staff members and leadership of this program has done an outstanding job in implementing the program's services and benefits. With cuts to Medicare and Medicaid in the horizon it would be imperative and socially responsible for the County to maintain and continue supporting the Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Program.

Your consideration and continued support to **"include the Molokai Rural Kupuna Program in your 2027 Budget"** would be greatly appreciated. With all due respect and aloha.

Your truly,

Adolph Helm

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFB MEETING ON 4/13/26

Cameron Hiro, PO Box 414, Hoolehua, HI 96729
808-658-0433/molokaikahu@gmail.com
04/10/26
Maui County Budget Committee

Dear Members of the Maui County Budget Committee,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the Molokai Rural Health Community Association's Kupuna Program. As a lifelong resident of Molokai and a proud fourth-generation homesteader in Hoolehua, I understand the importance of caring for our Kupuna, our beloved seniors who embody the wisdom and spirit of our culture.

The Kupuna Program has provided invaluable services that directly benefit our senior community. Personally, my 85-year-old mother has received essential assistance, including yard care and foot care, which have made a significant difference in her quality of life. Beyond these services, the Kupuna Program offers a wide range of activities that foster social engagement and well-being, including basic computer training, haircuts, crafts, lomilomi, and painting, all available at little or no cost. These offerings not only support physical health but also nourish the spirit of our seniors, helping them to stay active and connected.

As we approach the evaluation of funding priorities, I urge you to recognize the essential nature of this program. Caring for our Kupuna is not just a service; it is a cultural obligation that reflects our values as a community. Budgeting for the Kupuna Program is not negotiable; it is a commitment we must uphold. Our Kupuna have given so much to us, and it is our responsibility to ensure their well-being and dignity in their golden years.

I am Cameron Hiro, an operations manager at Hawaii Kai Salts, a poultry farm owner at Kamakani Farms (who have donated eggs to this program too), and the pastor of Heart of Aloha Church. I am also married to Jacqueline Hiro, a dedicated relationship banker at Bank of Hawaii for over 20 years. We both believe deeply in the importance of supporting our Keiki and Kupuna, and I stand firmly in my conviction that the Kupuna Program deserves continued funding.

Mahalo for considering this critical program in your budget deliberations. I hope you will take our Kupuna's needs to heart and ensure that the Molokai Rural Health Community Association's Kupuna Program remains funded and accessible for our seniors.

Mahalo,



Cameron Hiro

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha,

Molokai Rural Health Community Association
Attn: Kuulei Arce, Program Coordinator
PO Box 290614
Hoolehua, HI 96729
April 10, 2026

Barbara Bostwick
5520 Kamehameha V Hwy
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
bostwickb7@icloud.com
(808) 987-6225

Dear Kuulei,

As you review the Maui County Annual Budget, please recognize and **fund the MRHCA Program** for it is a **lifeline** to our small community in Molokai. My husband and I have both benefited from MRHCA's services over the past years; it has made a wonderful difference in our lives. Some of the earlier events and activities sponsored brought our Kupuna participants together, fed us, entertained us and enriched our lives with special friendships. Many new educational and recreational activities have been available to us. The activities offered kept us Kupunas "up to speed" with the digital world, aging issues, and ways to remain physically and mentally active. Feeling healthy and sound has allowed me to continue to volunteer regularly in our community and stay physically and mentally active and most importantly independent.

The MRHCA staff always bring a spark of joy to me because of the positivity they share whenever they call about services or are greeting you at the program office. We are truly blessed to have this vital program in our community.

The services that have been very beneficial to me and that I often used have been:

- Medicare Consultant - Joe, who helps me make informed choices each year for my medical coverage and provides accurate Medicare updates.
- Dr. Pitt – the Podiatrist; checks the arthritis pain in my feet, trims my toenails because I am unable to bend my knees enough to adequately trim them to avoid Pointers' toes and ingrown toenails.
- Medical foot care by Chisa Kalani-Certified Medical Foot Care Specialist – she helps the circulation in my feet and legs' I have lower calves skin discoloration because of poor leg circulation. Also, she trims my toenails and its cuticles to avoid ingrown toenails, Pointers' toes and infection. Chisa always shares how to take care of my feet and toenails and has so much aloha for me that I ALWAYS FEEL BETTER FROM MY HEAD DOWN TO MY TOES!
- Education workshops covering vital information such as, Advanced Care Directives, Cremation and/or Burial services on Molokai; materials for our BOOK of LIFE binder with instructions and a list of important and necessary documents to include for your family if I am unable to care for myself or if I pass away.
- Painting Classes taught online by a professional and gifted Maui artist via zoom which included painting supplies. The supplies provided allowed me to fully participate because chances are I wouldn't have the resources to buy the supplies needed. I really enjoyed the instructor who was friendly, personable and very good at teaching each of us that we could be good artists. I was very proud of my newly discovered artistic talent!
- In the past, we have been given a free Kupuna Food basket which is helpful with the rise in food prices here, especially in Molokai. Then in reciprocation, I donated one to another Kupuna through the Mobile Market.

There are other great services that MRHCA offers, and I wish I could use or participate in more of them. Many other Kupuna I know use these services too. It is because of this common thread that I have many new, special friendships with our other Kupunas and the MRHCA staff. **We have a beautiful lei of aloha that connects us because of our Molokai Rural Health Community Association thanks to you and your hardworking staff for your dedicated service to the Kupuna on Molokai. We are truly blessed to feel all the aloha you bring each day to the program and to each of us.**

Mahalo Piha!



Barbara Bostwick

Barbara Bostwick

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26

To the attention of the Mayors office:

Please consider budgeting for the Kupuna Program again on Molokai! This is an invaluable program for the Kupuna here on this island. These services would otherwise be very difficult to come by such as lomi lomi and haircutting which I myself take part in as often as possible.

Diabetic foot care also helps so many people here along with the classes that are offered. All these services contribute to mental health as well. These services are desperately needed here.

All the staff members reach out to us with sincere kindness and professionalism. It is also a clean welcoming facility. Our appreciation does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for your consideration

Toni Mott

tonidelmott@icloud.com

Molokai

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

✉ **Faith Horner to Kupuna Program
Support Letters Needed**

Faith Horner:
Aloha Mayor Bissen,

April 10, 2026 at
1:56pm

I am a recipient of services that are offered through the Kupuna Program here On Molokai. It is unfortunate that the Program may lose it's 2027-2028 funding.

Molokai is a small community with very minimum programs that help take care of the needs of our kupuna by providing quality Of life services. Without this Program the services now offered would not be available.

Mr. Bissen please help keep the Kupuna Program alive On Molokai.

Mahalo,
Faith Horner

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

**✉ Ruth Ann Howden to Kupuna Program
Support Letters Needed**

April 9, 2026 at
8:54pm

Ruth Ann Howden:

Dear Mayor Bissen,

Please consider including our very important local kupuna program in your 2027-2028 County budget. I have come to rely on them to answer questions, provide the service of lomi lomi massage which is a major benefit that I would not be able to afford without their service. Their talk story meetings are a delight and good way of building community. I have attended excellent information sessions that they've arranged on various, necessary, subjects in an accessible manner. Mahalo

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

**✉ Patty McCartney to Kupuna Program
Support Letters Needed**

April 10, 2026 at
3:38am

Patty McCartney:

Aloha County Council, my name is Patty McCartney. I am fortunate to have been a participant in some of the programs delivered by the Kupuna program.

I am also a practitioner of Laau la paau. Our hui has been able to provide services to the Kupuna on Molokai in the form of learning sessions to help Kupuna address health issues with Support and transportation for Kupuna to our Hale.

Molokai Kupuna have limited resources and this program enhances opportunities to better live on this rural island.

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

**✉ Jule Kamakana to Kupuna Program
Support Letters Needed**

Jule Kamakana:

April 9, 2026 at
8:30pm

Dear Mayor Bisson and members of the Maui Council!

My name is Jule Kamakana and I am one of the recipients of the beautiful programs that have been made possible through funding from the mayor and the council!

My husband and I have been able to get a haircut, get help with problems with our feet, and many other programs, including computer education! Molokai has so little opportunities for the elderly to be educated in arts and crafts and Hawaiian Culture!

Mahalo nui loa!

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEED MEETING ON 4/13/26

✉ **Helen Sayler to Kupuna Program
Support Letters Needed**

Helen Sayler:
To The Honorable Mayor Bissen of Maui County

April 10, 2026 at
11:09am

Aloha,

Please do not forget about the Molokai Kupuna. Show your support and concern for us by including the Molokai Kupuna Program in the 2027-2028 county budget.

Thank you for taking this action for our well being.

Sincerely,
Helen Sayler

RECEIVED AT Molokai
B FEN MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Kupuna program

1 message

Hallelujah Hou Fishing <molokaipake@gmail.com>
To: kupunaprogram@gmail.com

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 9:09 AM

Just a positive acknowledgment in favor of the kupuna program. As age creeps up many times activities begin to wane and kupuna are motivated to keep moving and being active. I know each person is different but at least there are opportunities for all our kupuna. I'm going to be 79 this year and appreciate every thing the program offers, especially the Lomi sessions which I wouldn't be able to afford.

Please include my vote to continue the program on Molokai.
My name is Clayton Ching.

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Mayor Budget 2027-2028

1 message

Edlynn Kaanoi-Espiritu <ekaanoi808@gmail.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 4:28 PM

I Edlynn Kaanoi-Espiritu, as an active Kupuna in the Molokai Kupuna Program. I am in support of the Mayor's budget for 2027-2028. These programs helps with wellness as well as wellbeing for all our Kupuna on the island. We on Molokai are already a less fortunate island due to the lack of Airline transportation which is critical for our entire island. This program supports our Kupuna with wellness, consultations and activites. Please support our island needs.

Mahalo,
Edlynn Kaanoi-Espiritu
ekaanoi808@gmail.com

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

To the attention of the Mayors office:

Please consider budgeting for the Kupuna Program again on Molokai! This is an invaluable program for the Kupuna here on this island. These services would otherwise be very difficult to come by such as lomi lomi and haircutting which I myself take part in as often as possible.

Diabetic foot care also helps so many people here along with the classes that are offered. All these services contribute to mental health as well. These services are desperately needed here.

All the staff members reach out to us with sincere kindness and professionalism. It is also a clean welcoming facility. Our appreciation does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for your consideration

Toni Mott

tonidelmott@icloud.com

Molokai

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

P.O. Box 114
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
April 12, 2026

To Mayor Bissen:

I am writing in support of the kupuna program on Molokai. This program has involved many people and has had a very positive impact. As a kupuna myself, I have been able to receive L lomilomi services, podiatry, as well as the services provided by Dr. Pitt.

Some of my friends have been pleased to get a haircut or get help cleaning their house and yard. They have received help in navigating government systems such as social security and Medicare, which believe me, can be very difficult to understand and deal with.

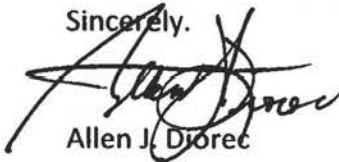
One of the activities provided by the kupuna program is a class in Taichi. I believe this class is very beneficial to us kupunas because it helps, not only as an exercise class, but also helps us mentally and physically. I recommend this class to all kupunas.

What so great about this program is that all necessary supplies and items are provided by the program. Some of the kupunas are living on fixed income and would not be able to participate in these activities if for that.

Kuulei Arce and staff are doing an excellent job in providing these services for our community. They are constantly working hard to learn and meet the needs of our kupuna community on Molokai. I believe this program is well-worth funding. The good it does spreads out in a ripple effect, enriching our entire Molokai community.

I, therefore, request that you continue to fund our kupuna program on Molokai. To stop this program will surely affect the entire kupuna community of Molokai. Your Kokua in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Allen J. Diorec

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFEP MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Continue Funding for MRHCA-2027 Budget

1 message

Alberta Patchen <albertapatchen@icloud.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 11:30 AM

To: Molokai Rural Health Kūpuna Program Mrhca <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

April 10, 2026

RE: Molokai Kupuna Need Funding to continue services provided that have improved our health physically, mentally, and spiritually

Aloha Mayor Richard Bissen,

I have been blessed to have the opportunity to receive services and help from an extremely caring staff who always are patient and helpful to call and remind me of my lomilomi appointment with Mayumi or help me reschedule if I need to because sometimes I forget what day it is! A challenge we have as we grow older.

We are warmly welcomed when we arrive at the office for our appointments.

Footcare is a great need for me and I was able to get appointments with Dr. Pitt who travels from Honolulu to assist us. A lot of services like this are not available on Molokai and requires us to travel off island, another challenge for Molokai seniors.

I have also been able to participate in playing ukulele and doing Christmas recitals along with other ukulele haumana and our lei hulu classes taught me patience and creativity!

Please continue to fund our program on Molokai. It is very much needed for our Kupuna.

Mahalo Nui,
Alberta Kaleihulumamo Patchen

Sent from my iPad

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

P. O. Box 558
Kaunakakai, HI, 96748

April 9, 2026

Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Office of the Mayor
200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Building, 9th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Mayor Bissen,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding of the Molokai Kūpuna Program through the County of Maui Department of Human Concerns.

Since its launch in July 2021 through the Office of Economic Development, the program has grown into an essential resource for our community. It not only created meaningful job opportunities following the COVID-19 pandemic, but more importantly, it established a much-needed system of care and connection for Molokai's kūpuna.

Today, the program serves over 800 registered resident kūpuna aged 65 and older. In our rural and geographically isolated community—where an estimated 22–24% of residents are kūpuna—the need for accessible health, social, and supportive services continues to increase.

The Molokai Kūpuna Program, including 4 paid staff, 16 contracted positions and 10 volunteers, addresses these needs by offering services and activities that reduce isolation, support homebound individuals, and promote overall well-being. Just as importantly, it fosters opportunities for kūpuna to stay connected, engaged, and supported within their community.

The program's strength lies in its collaborative approach, working in partnership with local organizations, healthcare providers, and dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to serve our kūpuna.

Continued County funding is critical to sustaining these vital services. The Moloka'i Kūpuna Program has proven to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our kūpuna, supporting their ability to age in place with dignity and connection.

Mahalo for your leadership and ongoing support of this important program on Molokai.

Mahalo,


Judith Mikami

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Continue Funding for MRHCA-2027 Budget

1 message

Alberta Patchen <albertapatchen@icloud.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 11:30 AM

To: Molokai Rural Health Kūpuna Program Mrhca <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

April 10, 2026

RE: Molokai Kupuna Need Funding to continue services provided that have improved our health physically, mentally, and spiritually

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I have also been able to participate in playing ukulele and doing Christmas recitals along with other ukulele haumana and our lei hulu classes taught me patience and creativity!

Please continue to fund our program on Molokai. It is very much needed for our Kupuna.

Mahalo Nui,
Alberta Kaleihulumamo Patchen

Sent from my iPad

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Letter to Mayor

1 message

Viola Mundrick-Wichman <tippy711@live.com>
To: Kuulei MRHCA <kupunaprogram@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 8:08 AM

Viola K. Mundrick-Wichman
PO Box 219
Hoolehua, HI 96729
808 217-1168

April 9, 2026

Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Office of the Mayor
[200 South High Street](#)
Kalana O Maui Building, 9th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Mayor Bissen:

First I want to say MAHALO for supporting our Molokai Kupuna Program. It is essential for the wellbeing of our 500+ Kupuna's that receive services generated by this program that we continue to receive funding. I am a Kupuna on Molokai and I do access the many services provided. I am writing to you asking for continued support of the Molokai Kupuna Program.

The existing staff have done an outstanding job keeping this program moving forward and reaching our Kupuna's mental health, physical health and social health. They have had challenges dealing with government changes in implementing the Kupuna Program BUT have preserved, even going without pay.

We have a definite need for Kupuna programs on Molokai because of our limited resources, our rural and geographically location and our number of Kupuna ages 65 and older. Please continue to make this a "line item" on your budget every year.

Mahalo for your ongoing support.

Viola K. Mundrick-Wichman

RECEIVED AT Molokai
B F E D MEETING ON 4/13/26

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

We are submitting this letter of request to continue & even expand the Kupuna Program here on Molokai.

Kuulei Arce & her staff have been so helpful to the needs of many of Molokai's elderly. The various programs, informational classes & activities are very much needed. Without this essential service our Kupuna will be left with very minimal ways to stay healthy physically or mentally, the kokua services for the those unable to do important things as yard or home maintenance & the camaraderie with others that have been developed over the years due to this service.

My wife & I whole heartedly agree that you must reconsider to allow the Kupuna Program of Molokai to continue.

With sincere gratitude & mahalo,
Adrian & Ella Canencia
Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFD MEETING ON 4/13/26

Mayer of Maui County - April 9 26
Richard Bissen:

from Kumu Loni Higa

As Kumu in both Hula and
Leu hula

Our Kupuna program has a Remarkable
Efforts in Cultural Aspects here on
Molokai. I Ask to Please Continue
the funded for Kupuna.

Makalo
Kumu Loni Higa

RECEIVED AT ^{Molokai} BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

TO Whom it CONCERNS...

April 10, 2026

This Letter is regarding the

ROPUWA GRAM. I am one of

The many seniors dependent on the services. Here on Molokai, There are very limited services. Prior to

getting hair cuts here, I went 10 years without a haircut. There ARE NO PLACES OR SHOPS to get your HAIR cut.

Also YARD Help is very important to staying in my home with my chronic MM Disability.

PLEASE FUND THIS GROUP AS FOR PEOPLE

Like myself without Family to help and no other organizations who provide help on

Molokai.

Sincerely,

RECEIVED AT ^{Molokai} BFD MEETING ON 4/13/26

08- 8-8494

April 9, 2026

To Mayor Richard Biele,

I am writing in support of the Kupuna Program on Molokai. This program has involved many, many people and has a very positive impact. As a Kupuna myself, I have attended + look forward to attending, Pickle ball classes, card making, sewing class, hair cuts, stretching, foni foni, computer + iPhone classes to name a few.

Kuulii + her staff are professionals who perform their services with true aloha spirit, and are always ready + willing to go out of their way to help everyone.

I humbly request continued funding for this very important service to the people of Molokai.

Molokai
Annette Tancayo

RECEIVED AT ^{Molokai} BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

Uloha Mays (Gwen),

I want to Mahalo you for funding our Kupuna Program on Molokai which is a great program that is needed & helped many Kupunas.

I'm a frequent user of the program. I attend the Lomi Lomi session that help me release my stress & tension. Dr. Pitt who comes from Oahu to provide his services to care for our feet by removing my calluses & trimming my toenails. The class help me improve my balance, toning my muscles, been flexible, good circulation, etc. Laukala class, I learn the skill of weaving, be a good listener, have alot of patient & caring & handling of the Laukala.

Kaulie & her staff are always there to assist me when I'm in need of help. I had concern & question regarding my Social Security & Medicare which Kaulie found a representative to assist me.

Kaulie & her staff does an outstanding job providing these services for our Kupunas on Molokai. This program is worth funding. So please keep our Kupuna Program in your 2027-2028 Budget

Mahalo,

Uloha Mays

RECEIVED AT Molokai 5 Feb MEETING ON 4/13/26

Placida Reyes
Box 1864
96748

4/10/26

Aloha Mayor,

First of all I would like to thank you for support in helping secure fundings for our Molokai Rural Comm. Health Center for the past years. Mahalo much!

Please include Molokai (MREHC) in your 2026-2027 budget allocation.

We need this program here to help keep us Kupunas be healthy physically & spiritually. We use all the programs that Kulei & staff offer us. They ~~need~~^{know} our needs and all are useful as we prepare for our to be golden age!

Please help continue to support us.

RECEIVED AT ^{Molokai} BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26 Mahalo & God Bless
Placida Reyes

4/7/26

Aloha Mr. Mayor

I am very grateful and appreciate all the help and services the Molokai Rural Health Community Association is helping our people in my community on Molokai!

I've used different services that I really need from time to time. For example: ① the pit doctor, Dr. Pitt, the ② masseuse on the island that always takes away my body aches and sore muscles, Mr. Mayor you should come and try the different persons that do it you would feel on top of the world!!! ③ So Mr. Mayor, I live in Hoolehua and just to get my hair cut I drive 7.5 miles to Kaunakakai town just for a beautiful haircut ^{person} that they send over from Honolulu ④ I live on Hawa'i Homestead and I have a big yard where I need yard work every month and a half. My hard working yardman is Koni Laemua wish you ^{could} meet him Mr. Mayor! He is such a warm hearted and caring person and works sooo hard. He has 4 children that he loves so much, hence that's why he works so hard. Mr. Mayor you are ^{always} welcome to see my yard after Koni cleans it. So beautiful!! ⑤ I was also attending computer class held at Molokai Maui College. I never thought in my wildest dreams that I

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Molokai
BLED
MEETING ON 4/13/26

would ever step into a College class (room)!
Yes I made it to College, thanks to Kuniaki
and her staff! I've ^{never} owned a computer in
my life but always wanted to document little
stories for my church. Lo and behold I've been
learning how to get in and out of the computer
and go to different sites. It opened up a new
world to me! It's so awesome! I get to
talk to other Kupunas, where most times
I'm home alone. Seeing other Kupunas doing
the 1hr. and 15 minute classes, keeps me alive
and well. And I thank you for that Mr. Mayor!

Now, speaking of the hard working staff
that takes care of us, that is another story!!!
Speaking about taking care, they are just like
our MOTHERS!!! They make it so easy for
us, to not forget our appointments, or Auntie you
need help. How you doing Auntie, they always
have time to talk story with us. Not like our kids!
They don't have time for us, but Kuniaki and
her staff are always there for us 100%!

So Mr. Mayor I hope you continue to help keep
this Molokai Rural Health Community Association
ALIVE! Myself and fellow Kupunas are asking
for your help in keeping us moving in the right
direction.

I was born and raised on this beautiful Molokai!
Kudie H. Davidson

April 6th 2026

P.O. BOX 1631

KAUNAKAKAI HI

96748

County of Maui

Re: Kapuna Program
on Molokai.

This is a valuable program
for an isolated island.
There is no senior center on
Molokai.

The programs are very
valuable and helpful to low
income seniors.

Provides socialization
and new skills and services.

Wendy van Heek

I feel this program
is very good for our minds
and co-ordination. The Kupunas
really benefit by this program.

Thank you all for helping
us!!

Carmen and Juliana
Toncaço.

Hoolehua, Molokai

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFEED MEETING ON 4/13/26 96729

PO Box 856

K'kai, Hi, 98748

April 8, 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen

200S High Street, Kalana O Maui Bldg, 9TH FLOOR

Wailuku, HI, 96793

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

I'm writing this letter to you for I want you to know and understand how very important the Kupuna program is to so many people on Molokai. I have been participating in this program since it first began and continue to be amazed at the variety of services it is able to provide to the Kupuna of our community. Not only is it supporting the Kupuna but it helps their children and others, knowing that the people they love and cherish are getting some of the needed resources they need and desire.

Personally, I have benefited from technology classes helping us "old guys" be more comfortable with computers and our phones. So many seniors are actually afraid of using these new resources since they do not understand how to use them. I have also participated in sewing and ceramics classes which I love for I not only learn new skills, but it is stimulating my brain. Maybe even more important is the social interaction and building of new friendship which is mentally enriching. Then there are the opportunities to be involved in appointments that can help to keep me more physically fit like the vision service, lomi lomi, and foot care. Each of these services are extremely limited on Molokai and difficult to access appropriate care without the support of this program.

I think one of the areas I am most thankful for is how the Kupuna program responds when they see a need due to the lack of resources on this island. For years, people on this island tried to get Social Security to once again come to Molokai, at least once a month to serve the community. Their excuses were "Just go online" or "Just make an appointment and visit the office." Both were not practical solutions for many Kupuna. In the past, many letters were written to gov't officials, conference calls were made to various agencies, but there was never any response to the need. The Kupuna program stepped up to address this problem and was able to provide someone to directly meet with and help Kupuna deal with the SS agency and resolve their issues. The lack of SS on island is no longer a problem, since this program has provided a resource for people.

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Again, when Queens was not accepting Humana, many in our community were “panicked” for they needed to have their medical and our hospital is part of the Queens system. Once more Kuulei and the workers were able to find a resource who came to the island and directly helped people make that change so people were not without their needed medical.

I could go on and on about the importance of this program and why it is necessary for the community. My dream is that the Molokai Kupuna program will become a permanent agency, that the residents of this island can depend on for many years to come, and that it can actually grow in the services that it will be able to provide!!

Again, thank you for your support and please continue this support thorough out the years to come. Don't let the Molokai Kupuna become the forgotten people of this island because of lack of funding and support from Maui County.

Sincerely,

Mary Kalilikane

Jamesie K Sambajon

P.O. Box 349

Kaunakakai HI 96748

4-9-2026

Dear Honorable Mayor Bissen and council members,

I am writing to share how vital the Kupuna program is for our community here on Molokai. It is more than just a place to go; it is what keeps us moving, learning, and connected. Without it, many of us would simply be staying home, but this program gives us the "movement" and the interest we need to keep going.

Our program provides essential education that changes our lives. Recently, we had a large group attend the "Positive Approach to Care" presentation. Learning the difference between "normal aging" and "not-normal aging" is so important. It reminds me of what my parents went through, and now that it is my husband's and my turn, we need this knowledge more than ever.

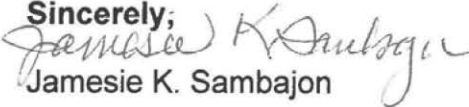
We also rely on this program to stay connected to the modern world. Our iPhone classes were so helpful for learning how to use our technology, but those stopped when the teacher was let go. We need these classes to continue so we aren't left behind. Similarly, the monthly foot care visits are a "must-have" since we lack local specialists on-island.

I especially want to mention our Painting Class. Even though enrollment is small, the support we give one another is huge. We uplift each other's spirits and encourage one another to keep growing. At our age, we need that peer support to stay positive.

Whether it is the exercise from Tai Chi, the technology training, or the personal touch of staff like Gwen, every part of this program keeps us sharp. It allows us to continue being productive members of our families—helping with our grandchildren and taking care of our homes.

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Please continue to support the funding for our Kupuna. It is the heartbeat of our community and the reason we keep moving forward.

Sincerely;

Jamesie K. Sambajon

April 10, 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen
Maui County Council Members

Mahalo! Mayor Bissen and our Maui County Council members for your vision and leadership in funding our Kupuna program with the Molokai Rural Health Community Association for the past years. We are writing in support of this Kupuna program on Molokai with Kulei Arce and her staff.

With this Kupuna program, Langie and I have done podiatry with Dr. Pitt, taking care of our feet, cutting and filing down our toenails, as well as our ingrown toenail problems. We follow up on our diabetes problems and do footcare with Chisa to help circulation, as well as looking and feeling good.

We look forward to our Lomilomi Services done by the masseuse on island, for all our aches and pain. In our old age, we are so thankful to have this service to feel better.

I am happy to be able to do hair cuts and coloring that makes me look and feel good. Hairdressers are not available

RECEIVED AT
BFD
MEETING ON 4/13/26

Molokai

(2)

on our island of Molokai. So, I appreciate this service.

We have done the Book of Life program that has helped us, as Kupunas, to collect and keep our important information and documents readily available for our ohana.

I have taken some computer classes to keep up with our technology world and its use. So much to learn in our technology way of life.

Most of all, with a sister dealing with Alzheimer, I had so much to learn about the illness and care giving. And happy the Kupuna program brought Department of Health and other organizations to come to Molokai, I needed to gain knowledge to help my sister. Sharing and hearing others experiences and solutions helped a lot. My sister has passed last year and I am grateful to have had help in those challenging times.

Longie and I have enjoyed our Kupuna Bingo dinner gatherings. We had a lot of fun playing bingo and talk story with our friends. We had some Drive through dinner pickups that we are so grateful.

So much more activities, like Sewing,

(3)

Painting, tai chi, pickleball and others that our friends enjoy, even house cleaning and yard cleaning.

We are both born on Molokai and raised here. These kupuna services and activities keep us healthy, looking good, having social interaction and live a happy kupuna life on Molokai.

We request for your continued funding of our Kupuna program with the Molokai Rural Health Community Association. And of course, with Kūkei Arce and her staff with their true Aloha Spirit on Molokai.

Mahalo,



Lorna A. K. Dudoit

John "Longie" + Lorna Dudoit
PO Box 173
Hoolehua, HI 96729



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

UNSTAMPED
 USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Jenn Pupuki

Email Address: mankaeluamakai@gmail.com Phone: 298-7312

Mailing Address: P.O BOX 1634 City/Zip: 9K Kai 96748

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: Aloha; to whom this may concern,

I would like to start by saying how much we appreciate MEO Head Start program. ~~Our~~ Both of our older sons attended this program and it really helped them get a "head start" on education. We didn't initially enroll our son here cause we lived Halaona, all of the other schools were beyond full with a long waitlist. We ended up putting ourselves on every waitlist hoping our son would get accepted. MEO had a space available and our son was able to begin his learning journey in a structured environment with other Keiki. I can't explain how much this has helped our son

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS

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prepare for kindergarten. In a short time, we have seen so much improvement in his retention, his ability to work and play with others. His social skills are improving and he is learning so much. This school has also helped our ohana with being able to return to work. If the school closed at noon all week, it would really put a damper on our work schedule. I also see how the full days really fill his cup. He seems so excited every day to tell us about what he learned, how much fun he had playing and how much he loves school. Please help keep this center open to ensure our keiki's ability to learn and help build on their most important years.

Mahalo nui loa i ke Kōkua

Jennifer Papuhi

Benny and Fely Piros

PO Box 1264
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
(808) 553-5735
piros@hawaiiantel.net

April 8, 2026

Mayor Richard Bissen

200 South High Street
Kalana O Maui Bldg 9th Fl.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Mayor Bissen,

Mahalo for the past year of funding for the Molokai Rural Health Kupuna Program. My wife and I have participated in the following activities sponsored by this program:

- Lomilomi - For the both of us
- Haircuts - For my wife
- Bag of fresh produce - For the both of us

Lomilomi has been the best service for us. The staff are excellent and they helped us improve our health. It loosens our tight muscles, improves blood circulation and relieves our muscle pain. Without these services we couldn't do what we love doing today: gardening, cleaning, repairs & maintenance, and many more.

Mahalo again, and we humbly ask you to continue funding this much needed program.

Sincerely,



Benny and Fely Piros

RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/8/26

John Puaoi
JP Tech
2197 Analu Place #239
Kualapuu, HI, 96757
johnp@jptech.llc
808-646-3670

April 9, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

**Subject: Urgent Request for Continued Funding for the
Molokai Kūpuna Program (Molokai Rural Health Community
Association)**

Aloha,

I am writing to you today as the contractor for the Molokai Kūpuna Program's computer class, offered through the Molokai Rural Health Community Association (MRHCA), to humbly request your support and intervention in securing continued funding for the 2027-2028 budget. The exclusion of this program—which provides vital technology training and educational sessions to our elders—from the proposed budget is a significant concern for our community and those we serve.

First and foremost, I wish to express deep gratitude for the program's history and the crucial services it

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

has provided to our Molokai kūpuna over the years. Our classes are designed to give kūpuna the basic computer knowledge and confidence they need to navigate modern technology safely, covering topics such as online security, email, and web applications. This education is essential to their overall health and well-being.

I have been doing this class for sometime now and have genuinely seen the positive impact it has on our kūpuna in addition to hearing how the other programs the MRHCA does affects the kūpuna in a positive way.

Personally, this means so much to me. A few years back, my kūpunahine Lillian asked me to come by and walaau with her to record her mana'o and learn what I can from her. I always had a reason not to go and let work and other matters in life get in the way. By the time I actually did go she could no longer speak and passed away shortly after. Not going sooner is a decision I will always regret for the rest of my life. All that mana'o, ike and aloha is now lost because I let other things get in the way. Please do not let the same thing happen for the kūpuna that this program serves.

I truly believe that these kūpuna throughout their lifetime, in one way or another, have served our community, paved the way for the next generation and have given their kokua and mana'o for us. So it is only right that we give back to them, especially in a time of their life that they need it most.

Some say kūpuna are our past, but I say they are apart
of our Future.

The continued success of this program is vital to the
well-being and dignity of our elders. I humbly request
that you include continued funding for the Molokai
Kūpuna Program in the 2027-2028 budget so that we may
continue serving them together.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, consideration, and
support of our community.

Sincerely,

John Puaoi
Contractor, JP Tech





HŌKŪLANI CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF MOLOKA I
P.O. Box 85 | Ho'olehua, HI 96729
Phone: 808-658-0869 | Email: hokulanictom@gmail.com
Website: www.hokulanictom.org

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF The Kupuna Program's 2027-2028
County Budget**

Hōkūlani Children's Theatre of Moloka'i (CTOM)
April 7, 2026

Aloha,

My name is Vicki Boswell, Founder and Acting Executive Director of Hōkūlani Children's Theatre of Moloka'i. I am writing in strong support of the Kupuna Program's 2027-2028 County budget.

On a personal level, I have directly benefited from the program's services. I live with degenerative arthritis in my joints, and the lomi lomi services have been incredibly helpful in managing discomfort and maintaining my mobility. I have also utilized their haircut services, which are especially valuable given the limited availability of such services on Moloka'i.

Beyond personal impact, our organization proudly partners with the Kupuna Program to host a monthly gathering that brings kupuna together for connection, creativity, and joy. These events include a light dinner and engaging activities that help reduce isolation and strengthen our community. We consistently see how meaningful this time is for participants, offering both social connection and emotional uplift.

RECEIVED AT Molokai BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26

The Kupuna Program is not just a service—it is a vital lifeline that supports the health, dignity, and well-being of our elders. Its impact reaches far beyond basic needs, fostering community, purpose, and care for those who have given so much to Moloka'i.

I respectfully urge you to continue funding this essential program in the upcoming budget cycle. Your support ensures that our kupuna are cared for, valued, and connected.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Vicki Boswell
Founder, President & Acting Executive Director
Hökūlani Children's Theatre of Moloka'i

the MEO taking us to classes at our local college is also well received. the food bank services are so needed and appreciated as well as the various classes at Pumehana and rides to Na puu wai for accupuncture and diet plan classes. Its just wonderful that we continue to have these services. Please! consider Molokai for continued funding in your upcoming budget for our small population.

With Sincere Aloha
and gratitude
39 year Molokai
Resident

Tammy Watts

11 Unit A-5 Pumehana

"Where Aloha Lives Senior Living

808-250-0789

Email: twatts57@icloud.com

- 43 Type of flooded land
- 42 Protected lands for plants and animals
- 44 OUT OF ORDER! USE STAIRS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
- 7 Game-tying goal
- 3 Healthier version of a breakfast side dish
- 4 "Or... what?"
- 5 Longtime NASCAR sponsor
- 6 Alters the shape of
- 7 Dell competitor

ASIAN ASTORITE
PURE USE OARS
JUST SPINNING
ATE RAE ERI TEA
BEDAMN ZEE MARY
HEDGEROWS
GAGA OLD LANCED
150 TRI AAH UNO
FORWHATITSWORTH
FIRE CRT AFAR

Support letter
From: Tammy Watts
Pumehana Unit A-5

MR MAYOR

First of all, ALOHA!! MAHALO!!

I want to write a letter again this year of 2024 to thank MEO for the continued excellent service provided for our beloved Molokai Island community! We all know each other by name and or Aunt/uncle greetings. We ask each other how ~~are~~ our loved ones are and keep up with daily lives and grandchildren ball games, class grades, etc. I am one of many that utilize the services our island provides for kupuna and all citizens young and in between. Doctor PITT is instrumental with his patient visits and Chisa at Nail Bar tends to our pre and diabetic kupuna needs. Eye care, Lomi Lomi, and all Doctor visits to Molokai Health center for dental as well are so appreciated!

the MEO taking us to classes at our local college is also well received. The food bank services are so needed and appreciated as well as the various classes at Pumehana and rides to Na puu wai for acupuncture and diet plan classes. Its just wonderful that we continue to have these services. Please! Consider Molokai for continued funding in your upcoming budget for our small population.

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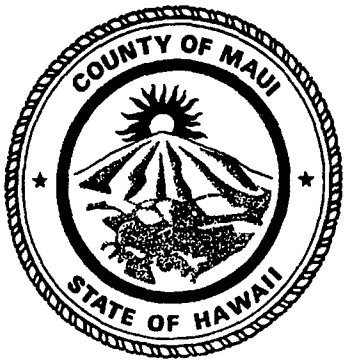
11 Unit A-5 Pumehana

"Where Aloha Lives"

Senior Living

808-250-0789

Email: twatts57@icloud.com



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Janette Taneayo

Email Address: janette1ani@yahoo.com

Phone: 808-646-1624

Mailing Address: PO Box 1493

City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself

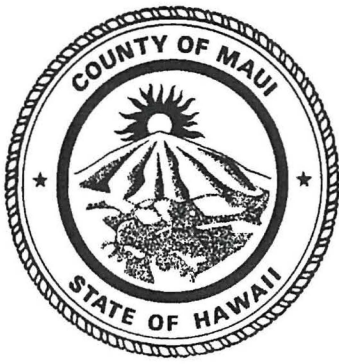
Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: Funding is essential. A comprehensive budget

act as a financial road map, ensuring the school
can sustain a safe environment and provide high
quality education. We need ongoing investment for
age appropriate books, supplies, educational toys.
for our children. The funds are needed to provide
free and healthy meals for our children. ~~Keeping~~
MEO provides a well structured program, and
keeping it open till 3:00 helps out with parents
who work a full time job.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: KAYLA WILLIAMSON

Email Address: kayla.23@yahoo.com

Phone: (808)658-6736

Mailing Address: PO BOX 1484 KAUNAKAKAI HI

City/Zip: KAUNAKAKAI 96748

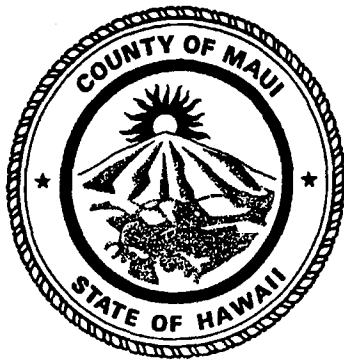
I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: MEO HEADSTART IS AN AWESOME PROGRAM FOR THESE KEIKI BECAUSE IT HELPS THEM TO PREPARE FOR NEW ENVIRONMENT IN BIGGER SCHOOLS WITH DIFFERENT FACES & PEOPLE. HELPS THEM BUILD SOCIAL SKILLS, CREATE FRIENDSHIPS. THIS PROGRAM IS ALSO HELPFUL TO WORKING PARENTS WHO MAY STRUGGLE WITH CHILD CARE, WHO DON'T HAVE MUCH SUPPORT ELSE WHERE. THE CONTINUED FUNDING WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED FOR THESE KEIKI'S LEARNING, FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF STAFFING, & WORKING PARENTS! MAHALO NUI MEO STAFF FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION FOR OUR KEIKI.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS

RECEIVED AT MAUI BEFO MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Shanda Kaholoaa

Email Address: shandalynkkaholoaa12@gmail.com Phone: 808-658-9233

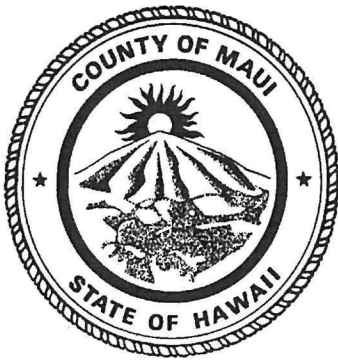
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 194 City/Zip: Hoboken, HI 96729

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: MEO has been very resourceful and helpful to my children and I for multiple reasons. The first for being a free pre-school my children can attend with exceptional teaching and education. Second, for offering many free things for my children such as learning supplies for my children and also free food, snacks for my children at home. MEO has been very helpful for my family and I still plan on enrolling my next two children into MEO in these next two - three years.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Ava Morris

Email Address: avamolokai@gmail.com

Phone: 8086986170

Mailing Address: PO BOX 129 HOOLEHUA HI 96729

City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO HEAD START

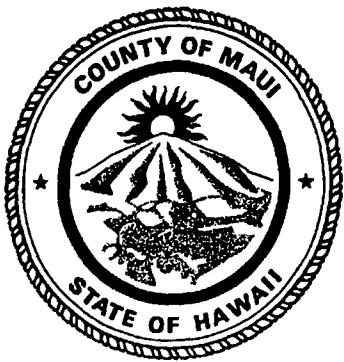
Request/Issue: I AM WRITING TO SHARE MY APPRECIATION FOR MEO HEADSTART

and to express how meaningful it has been for my family. MEO has provided my child with access to free preschool, which has been incredibly valuable in supporting his early learning and development. The program has also supported us with essential supplies. We have received items such as books, color pencils, and other art materials. I am also deeply grateful for additional support provided to my family, including diapers for my infant. This kind of assistance goes beyond education and truly shows the program's commitment to supporting families as a whole. Overall MEO has made a positive and lasting impact on our lives, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity.

Mahalo, Ava Morris

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

USE ONLY NO.
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PLEASE PRINT

Name: Jennine Rojas

Email Address: jennine.rojas93@gmail.com

Phone: 8082134055

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1635

City/Zip: KKai 96748

I Represent: Myself

Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: I'm requesting funding for a full day of school because
him being in school makes it a lot easier for me considering
I work full time and have four kids. With the prices of
living in Hawaii, its really hard to pay for child care
also. And if its only half-day it'd make it harder to
work.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS

Aloha,

My name is Vanalouise Naehu, and I am writing in support of continued funding for MEO Head Start programs, especially the extended hours program, in the Maui County Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

I currently serve as a Parent Council President and am also a member of the community. My child is in his second year with Head Start, and our experience has been nothing but positive. As a single parent who is attending school full-time while also working full-time, this program has been a major support system for my family.

Head Start has given me peace of mind knowing that my child is in a safe, nurturing, and educational environment. The staff truly care about the keiki and their development. My child loves going to school, loves the people around him, and is excited to learn every day. Even during times when he has missed school, the support and care from the program have continued, which shows the level of commitment they have to each child and family.

The resources and services provided go beyond just education. They support the whole family, and for parents like me, that makes a real difference. It allows us to continue working, going to school, and building a better future while knowing our children are being well taken care of.

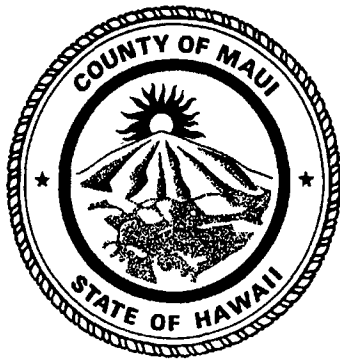
I respectfully ask that Maui County continue to support and fund MEO Head Start programs, including extended hours, so that families like mine can continue to benefit from these essential services.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Vanalouise Naehu



RECEIVED AT Molokai
BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT Name: Waianuhea Kauwelo

Email Address: celine.kauwelo@yahoo.com

Phone:

Mailing Address: PO BOX 943

City/Zip: Kaunakakai 96748

I Represent: Myself
Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: MEO plays an important role to my child's early learning hood. Without MEO my child would not be as confident

as he is today and he would not be as smart as he is today without the help of MEO's wonderful preschool staff. The staff take their time to get to know the children and adjust to their learning pace. I appreciate MEO helping my family and having my son join this school just at the age of three. All three of my children have attended MEO school because we were always satisfied with the outcome of our child's learning skills. My youngest is now four today and is exceeding many standards typical four year olds at his age do not typically accomplish. MEO also helped me detect a issue early that we were able to tackle with simple therapy sessions. Now my son is always so excited to attend school with this teachers, friends and wanting to know what they will be learning for the day. Thank you MEO for also offering an extended school year which leaves the working parents some relief for childcare of the younger generation. Please continue to fund this school as they can help so much more children .

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns

RECEIVED AT MEETING ON 9/13/26
Molokai BFD

04/07/2026

Subject: Appreciation for Head Start Funding

Dear County Official

I want to sincerely thank the County for funding the Head Start program. Your support has made a meaningful difference in our community and in the lives of families like mine.

Through Head Start, my child has gained valuable early learning experiences, social-emotional skills, and access to health and nutrition services. Our family has benefited from resources, guidance, and a supportive environment that empowers both parents and children to thrive. These services have provided a strong foundation for my child's growth and success.

I respectfully ask that the County continue funding the Head Start program in fiscal year 2027 so that more families can experience these vital benefits. Your continued commitment ensures that children in our community have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Shauna Pule-Kaahanui

RECEIVED AT Makoa BFED MEETING ON 4/13/26